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INSPECTOR KOZABURO HIMURO

Kozaburo Himuro is the reclusive head of Special Unit A (aka the Crypt). From within his secluded headquarters, Himuro uses his genius intellect and understanding of the criminal mind to help solve the most heinous and bizarre cases. Due to mysterious events in his past, he is incapable of leaving the Crypt to face the world and his own personal demons.

DETECTIVE KURUMI AYAKI

As Inspector Himuro's eyes and ears outside the Crypt, Kurumi Ayaki helps investigate the gruesome crimes assigned to Special Unit A. Although completely out of her element, Ayaki's heart and determination help compensate for her lack of practical experience. It is Ayaki's emotional tenacity combined with Himuro's cold logic that may be the team's greatest asset.

Previously in REMOTE...

Former meter maid Kurumi Ayaki's stint with the Metropolitan Police Department's Special Unit A has proven to be anything but dull. Working directly under the reclusive Inspector Himuro Kozaburo, Ayaki aids him in his efforts to solve the city's most heinous crimes. From killer clowns to mad bombers to lethal stalkers, no crime is too bizarre, no criminal too crafty.
But now things have taken a decidedly nasty, and downright sleazy, turn for the worse. When an old school friend winds up decapitsted in a hotel room, Ayaki must infiltrate the world of the sex trade and pose as a fuzoku girl in order to track down the killer. Could it be the lascivious proprietor of The Peeping Tom? Or could the urban legend of the murderous and insane Faceless Woman be true? Find out, in the conclusion to "Death Blooms Erotic"...

Remote Vol. 7

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Los Angeles, CA 90036v

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in 2003 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo
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ISBN: 1-59532-810-6

First TOKYOPOP printing: October 2005

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada

.remote.

VOLUME 7

WRITER - SEIMARU AMAGI

ARTIST - TETSUYA KOSHIBA

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HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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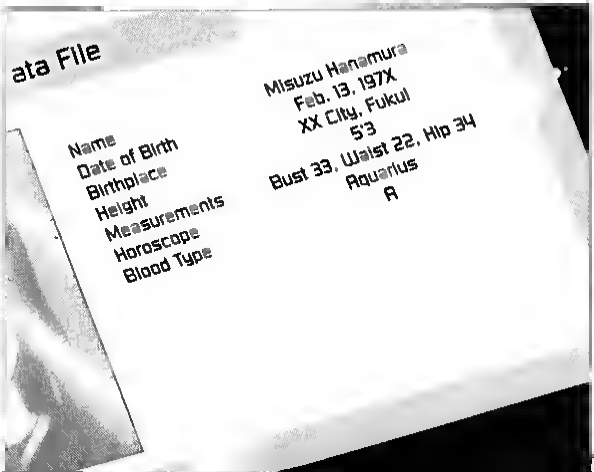
FILE 59
DEATH BLOOMS EROTIC
GHOST FROM THE PAST

THE FACELESS WOMAN...!
SHE'S THE WOMAN WHO WAS HORRIBLY BURNED WHEN THE FUZOKU BUILDING WAS SET ON FIRE...
HER NAME IS MISUZU HANAMURA!

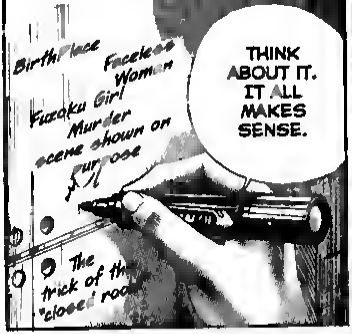

ata File
Name
Date of Birth
Birthplace
Height
Measurements
Horoscope
Blood Type
Misuzu Hanamura
Feb. 13, 197X
XX City, Fukui
5'3
Bust 33, Waist 22, Hip 34
Aquarius
A

The Crypt

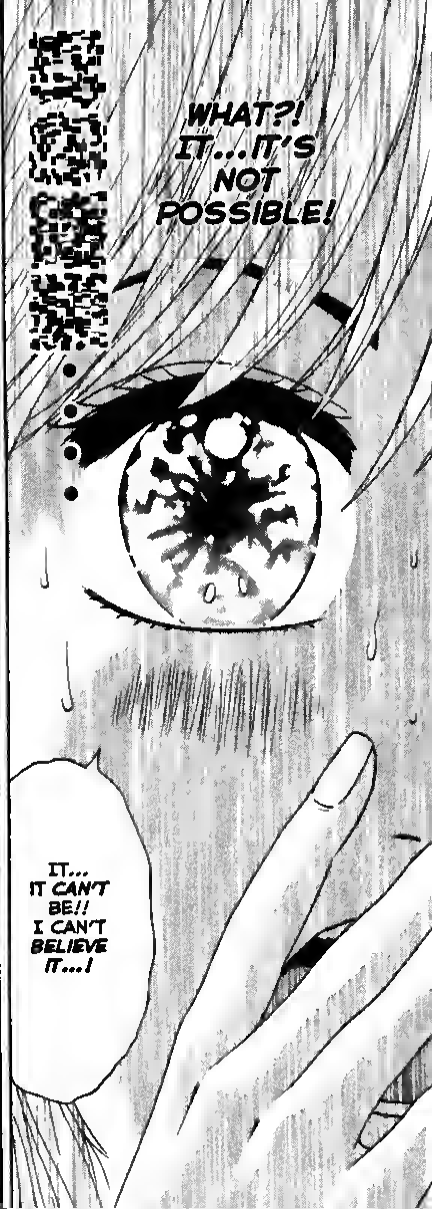
TAK

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! IT CAN'T JUST BE COINCIDENCE THAT ME, MUTSUMI, MISUZU HANAMURA--AKA THE FACELESS WOMAN--
--ARE ALL FROM FUKUI PREFECTURE!
MPD
Data File
Name
Date of Birth
Birthplace
Height
Measurements
Horoscope
Blood Type
XX City, Fukui
COINCIDENCE? PERHAPS NOT.

...I'VE DISCOVERED THE WRINKLE IN THIS CASE!
THANKS TO THE INFORMATION SHINGO OBTAINED REGARDING THE "FACELESS WOMAN"...
DID YOU FIND SOMETHING?
WHAT?
THE KILLER IS...
ALREADY?


Birthplace
Faceless Woman
Fuzoku Girl
Murder scene shown on purpose
The trick of the "close" room
THINK ABOUT IT. IT ALL MAKES SENSE.

...DO YOU HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT?!
DO YOU...
NO.
OUR KILLER IS VERY CAREFUL... AND VERY CLEVER. EVIDENCE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO FIND.


WHAT?! IT...IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
IT... IT CAN'T BE!! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!

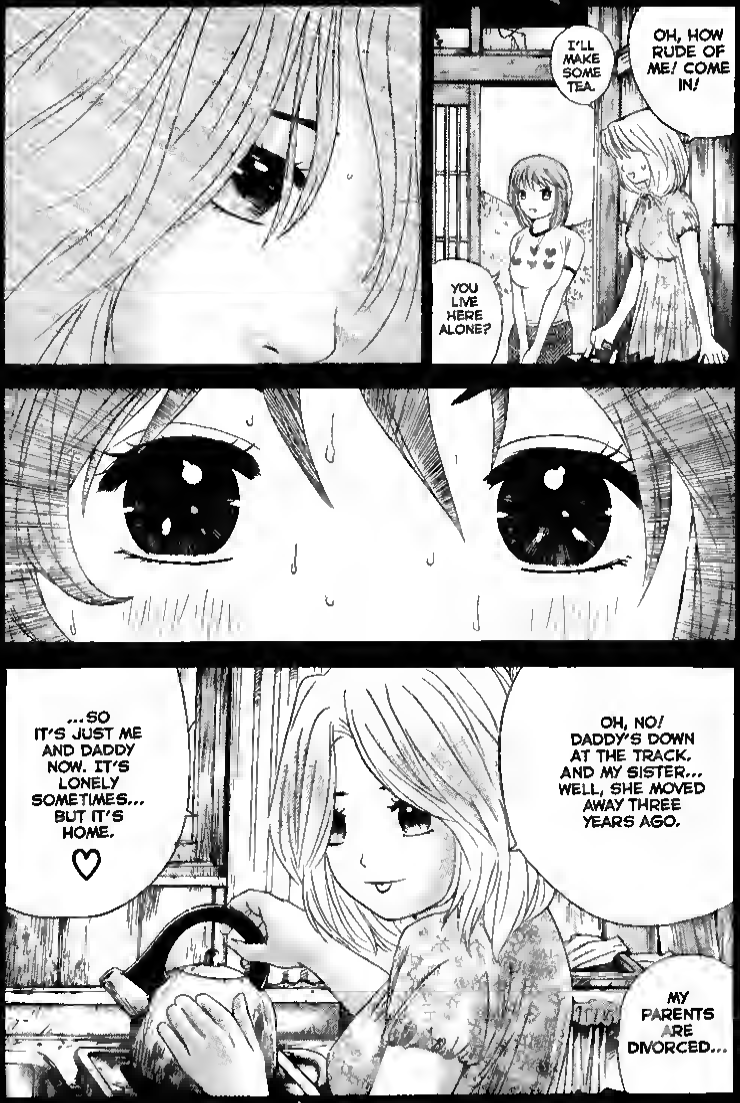
WHERE TO?
BUT...
I'M GOING!!
MUTSUMI'S APARTMENT!

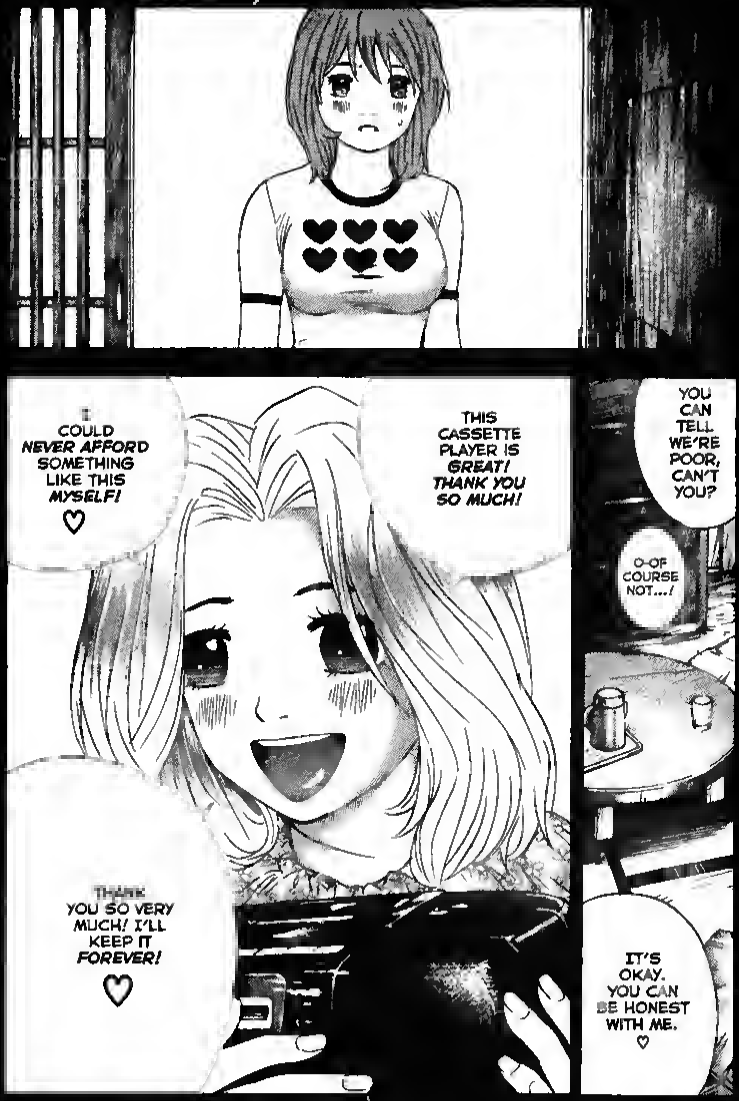
THAT MUST BE IT!
OH... WHAT'S THE MATTER, KURUMI?
NOTHING! I'M FINE!
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
I JUST NEED TO SEE THE ROOM!
I-I CAN'T!! YOU KNOW HOW OTAGORO HATES INSPECTOR HIMURO!
I'D GET IN BIG TROUBLE!
POLICE LINE DO NOT CR
PLEASE, HACHINOHE-SAN! I JUST NEED A MOMENT!
Mutsumi Hinata
HE'LL NEVER FIND OUT!
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE GUARDING THIS PLACE, RIGHT?

OH.
PLEASE?
IT'LL BE OUR SECRET... JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
I'M IN...!
THIS IS HER APARTMENT, ALL RIGHT. NAMETAG ON THE BOX AND EVERYTHING.
OKAY?
M tsumi Hinata
DO YOU WANT HER GAS BILL, TOO?
?
OKAY, GET THE NAMETAG.
Mutsumi Hinata
CHECK.

KURUMI-- YOU TWO WERE GOOD FRIENDS, RIGHT?
IT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...
FUKUI PRE-FEC-TURE
I WENT OVER TO GIVE MUTSUMI MY CASSETTE PLAYER...
BEFORE I LEFT FOR TOKYO...
WELL... WE KINDA LOST TOUCH... BUT I DID GO TO HER HOUSE ONCE

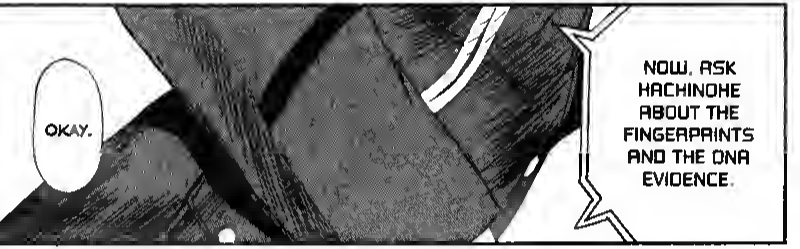
OH, WOW, KURUMI! YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE JUST TO BRING ME THIS?!
HOW SWEET! OH, I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED...! UM...
...AND I KNOW YOU ALWAYS LIKED IT, SO...
HERE, MUTSUMI. MY NEW PLACE IS KIND OF SMALL...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
!
IT'S JUST MY HOUSE IS SO...I MEAN... JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE AT SCHOOL WHERE I LIVE, O-KAY?

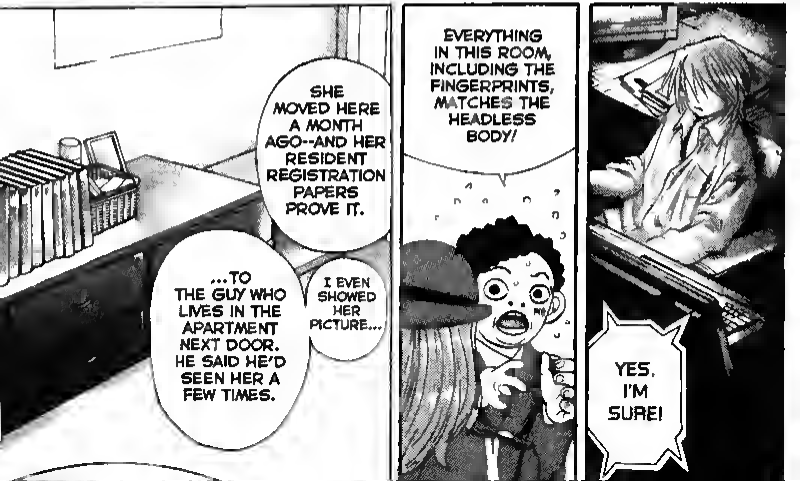

OH, HOW RUDE OF ME! COME IN!
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
YOU LIVE HERE ALONE?
OH, NO! DADDY'S DOWN AT THE TRACK. AND MY SISTER... WELL, SHE MOVED AWAY THREE YEARS AGO.
MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED...
...SO IT'S JUST ME AND DADDY NOW. IT'S LONELY SOMETIMES... BUT IT'S HOME.
♡


YOU CAN TELL WE'RE POOR, CAN'T YOU?
O-OF COURSE NOT...!
IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN BE HONEST WITH ME. ♡
THIS CASSETTE PLAYER IS GREAT! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I COULD NEVER AFFORD SOMETHING LIKE THIS MYSELF! ♡
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! I'LL KEEP IT FOREVER! ♡

MUTSUMI WAS WORKING PART-TIME AT A DELI TO PAY HER HIGH SCHOOL TUITION. NOT ONLY WAS SHE A HARD WORKER...
...BUT SHE WAS ONE OF THE BEST GIRLS ON OUR ATHLETIC TEAM.
IF ONLY SHE HAD CALLED ME WHEN SHE HAD FIRST ARRIVED IN TOKYO...
...MAYBE I COULD HAVE HELPED HER.
MUTSUMI WANTED TO START A NEW LIFE TO TRY AND ESCAPE THE PAST.
SO IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

YOU SAID SHE WAS EMBARRASSED ABOUT WHERE SHE LIVED... WHERE SHE CAME FROM...
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY SHE NEVER CALLED YOU ONCE SHE ARRIVED IN TOKYO. SHE JUST WANTED A FRESH START.


NOW, ASK HACHINOHE ABOUT THE FINGERPRINTS AND THE DNA EVIDENCE.
OKAY.


SHE MOVED HERE A MONTH AGO--AND HER RESIDENT REGISTRATION PAPERS PROVE IT.
I EVEN SHOWED HER PICTURE...
...TO THE GUY WHO LIVES IN THE APARTMENT NEXT DOOR. HE SAID HE'D SEEN HER A FEW TIMES.
EVERYTHING IN THIS ROOM, INCLUDING THE FINGERPRINTS, MATCHES THE HEADLESS BODY!
YES, I'M SURE!

SO YOU SEE, I'M POSITIVELY CERTAIN THIS IS MUTSUMI HINATA'S RO--HEY! WHERE ARE YOU...?
KU-RU-MI?
IT'S NOT HERE ...
THE CASSETTE PLAYER...

HACHINOHE...WAS THERE A SMALL CASSETTE PLAYER AMONG THE ITEMS THAT THE POLICE REMOVED AS EVIDENCE?
UM... NO, I DIDN'T SEE ONE.
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE MUST BE!
WHY ARE YOU SO SURE SHE WOULD HAVE A CASSETTE PLAYER?
A HIGH-PRICED FUZOKU GIRL COULD EASILY AFFORD A SNAZZY STEREO SYSTEM...
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.../
THAT CASSETTE PLAYER...
...IT WAS...
...SPECIAL...
ゴゴゴ

DADDY!!
NO...
IT WAS A MEMENTO OF HER FATHER!
NOOOO!!
AFTER I MOVED TO TOKYO, A FRIEND TOLD ME THAT MUTSUMI'S HOUSE HAD BURNED DOWN.
HER FATHER WAS BADLY BURNED... BUT HE STILL MANAGED TO CRAWL FROM THE FLAMING WRECKAGE WITH THE CASSETTE PLAYER. HE KNEW HOW MUCH IT HAD MEANT TO HER.

EXCELLENT WORK, OFFICER AYAKI!!
MUTSUMI...
RUSTLE ...

File 59 END

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07>>7

STORY_BY:SEIMARU_AMAGI

ART_BY:TETSUYA_KOSHIBA

EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

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TOKIA

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ART BY TETSUYA KOSHIBA

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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNSOLVED CASE REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Case file number	Previous officer assigned	Lt. M. Pavia
MS-45	Current officer assigned	Officer K. Ayaki

Investigation status

Officer Kurumi Reporting.

I've worked some tough gigs before—tracking a killer clown, stopping a mad bomber, protecting a rich punk kid. And now I'm in the worst place yet: a peep show. All those cases are nothing compared to this slime hole. But I'm close—real close—to nabbing the faceless woman who's been cutting off the heads of all the pretty young things.... And it's not a moment too soon.

Next up, my fiancé and I are taking a well-deserved vacation/to clear our heads in the mountains. But I should know by now that nothing ever goes right for us, and our quaint rural drive leads to car trouble—and murder. Seems like psychopaths never take a holiday from me...

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EAN

M
MATURE
AGES 18+

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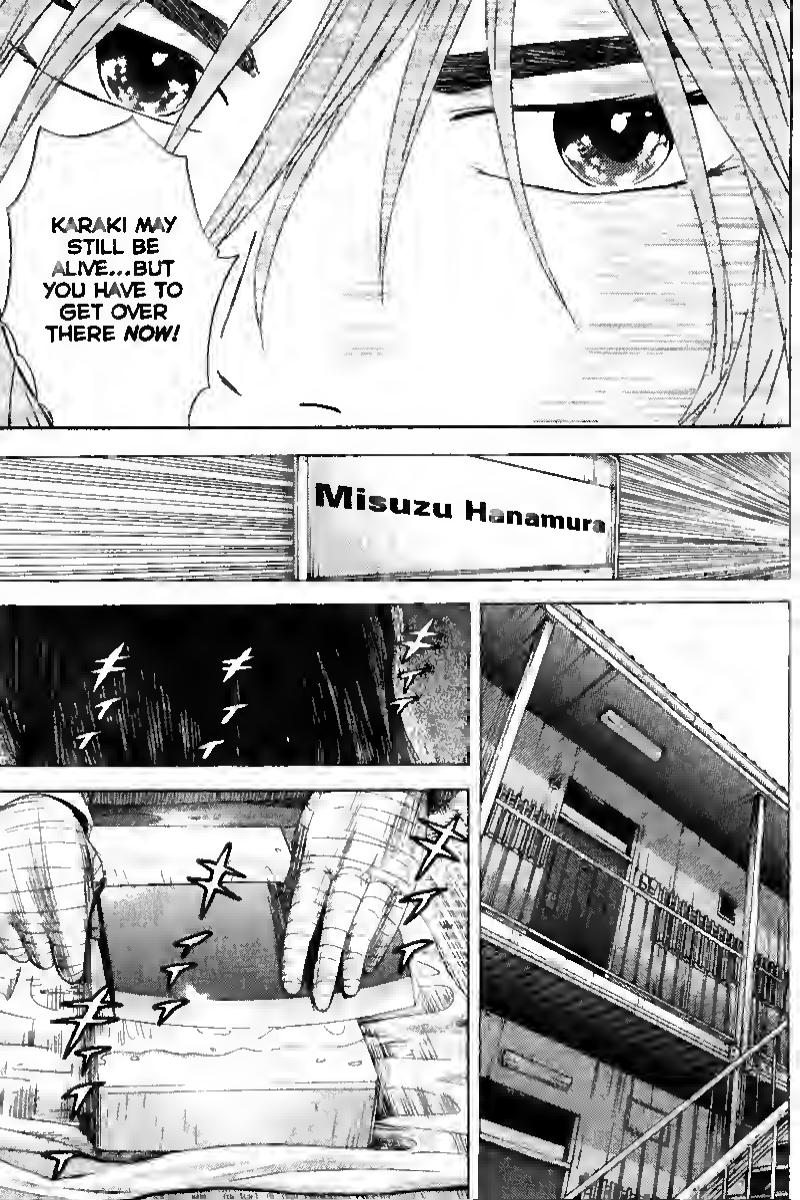
INSPECTOR HIMURO... I HAVE A *REQUEST*...
KYUU
LET *ME* BE THE ONE TO *ARREST* THE *KILLER!*
FILE 60
DEATH BLOOMS EROTIC
A MYSTERY UNRAVELED

WHAT?!
A GUN AND A SYRINGE CONTAINING ANESTHETIC WERE JUST FOUND IN A NEARBY PARK! THE GUN IS REGISTERED TO KARAKI.
PERMISSION GRANTED. NOW HURRY!
I THINK MAYBE KARAKI HAD A RUN-IN WITH OUR KILLER.
GET OVER TO MISUZU HANAMURA'S APARTMENT. IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, THAT'S WHERE OUR KILLER SHOULD BE!


KARAKI MAY STILL BE ALIVE...BUT YOU HAVE TO GET OVER THERE NOW!
Misuzu Hanamura

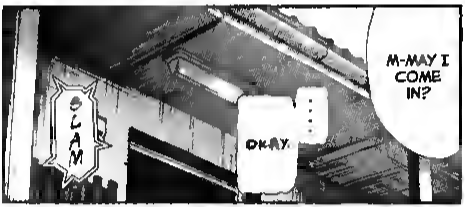
YOU...YOU KILLED MUTSUMI...
IT'S YOU...
YOU KILLED MUTSUMI HINATA..

MMMM!!
MMMMPH!!
YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR SINS!!
MMMPH!!
AND NOW... YOU MUST PAY...

DING
DONG
!
ラブ
ラブ

...
MMMFF!!
DING DONG
DING DONG
I KNOW YOU'RE HOME, HANAMURA!
OPEN THE DOOR!
THIS IS OFFICER KURUMI AYAKI OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT!
I'VE JUST GOT A FEW QUESTIONS!
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE--I CAN *HEAR YOU*! I PROMISE I WON'T TAKE UP TOO MUCH OF YOUR TIME...! PLEASE! OPEN UP!

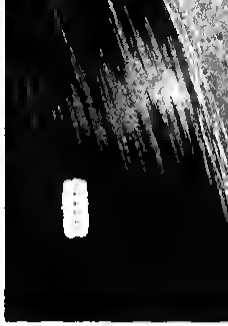
YES...?


M-MAY I COME IN?
OKAY.
SLAM

WHAT DO YOU WANT OFFICER?
IF THIS IS ABOUT THE FUJOKU BUILDING FIRE, I'VE BEEN OVER IT SO MANY...

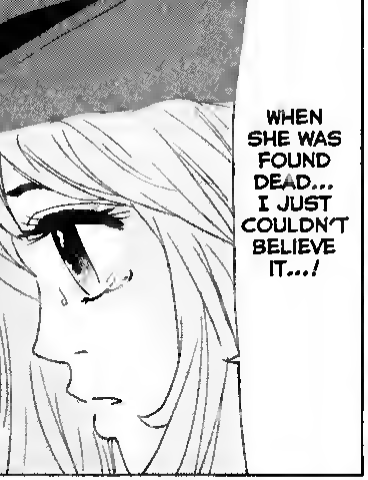
WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT IS...
NO...IT'S NOT ABOUT THE FIRE.
...THE MURDER OF MUTSUMI HINATA!
!!

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF--
HINATA? I...I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...!



THAT'S GOOD, KURUMI. KEEP IT GOING.
BACKUP IS EN ROUTE. JUST TAKE IT *SLOW* AND *EASY* LIKE WE DISCUSSED...

MUTSUMI'S FROM FUKUI-- LIKE YOU.
HER HEADLESS BODY WAS FOUND SEVERAL DAYS AGO.


WHEN SHE WAS FOUND DEAD... I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE IT...!

OH, HOW HORRI-BLE...

I KNEW MUTSUMI IN HIGH SCHOOL. SHE WAS MY BEST FRIEND.

I TRULY AM SORRY BUT... WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
I'M SURE THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY THAT SHARE HOME-TOWNS
ON THE CONTRARY-- IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH YOU...

...

!!
JUST ADMIT IT!! YOU ARE MUTSUMI, AREN'T YOU?!

...BECAUSE YOU ARE THE REAL KILLER...
...MUTSUMI HINATA!!

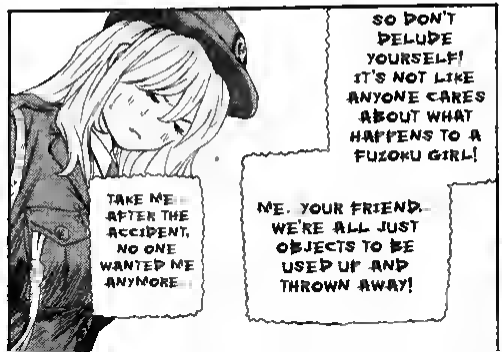
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! HOW CAN I BE THIS GIRL YOU KNEW?!
TO BEGIN WITH, SHE'S DEAD, RIGHT?! YOU JUST SAID SHE WAS FOUND DEAD-- HEADLESS, EVEN!
WHY WOULD THE KILLER TAKE THE HEAD? CERTAINLY NOT TO HIDE THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIM...NOT WHEN FINGERPRINTS AND DNA COULD CONFIRM IT ANYWAY.
RIGHT. HEADLESS... AND *THAT'S* THE *KEY* IN THIS CASE.
SO WHY *WOULD* THE KILLER HAVE TO CHOP HER HEAD OFF...?

...BUT ANOTHER WOMAN...A WOMAN WHOSE FACE WAS HORRIBLY DISFIGURED WHILE SHE WORKED AS A FUZOKU GIRL! *THE FACELESS WOMAN!*
BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT THE VICTIM WAS NOT MUTSUMI HINATA...
THE VICTIM WAS *MISUZU HANAMRA*... AND THE KILLER IS *YOU*-- *MUTSUMI HINATA!*

YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT SHE KEPT HER FACE HIDDEN BY BANDAGES!
YOU *STOLE* HER *IDENTITY*, DIDN'T YOU?!

AND EVEN WITHOUT THE HEAD, THAT PROVES IT'S HER BODY!
YOU SAID YOURSELF THE FINGER-PRINTS AND DNA MATCHED YOUR FRIEND!

I AM MISUZU HANAMURA!
HMPH!
ARE YOU INSANE?!
THIS IS CRAZY! YOU'RE CRAZY!


SO DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF! IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE CARES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO A FUZOKU GIRL!
TAKE ME AFTER THE ACCIDENT, NO ONE WANTED ME ANYMORE
ME. YOUR FRIEND. WE'RE ALL JUST OBJECTS TO BE USED UP AND THROWN AWAY!

THAT'S ENOUGH...
PLEASE STOP... MUTSUMI.
THE POLICE...MY BOSS...THEY KNOW EVERYTHING.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND ANYMORE.
NO MORE LIES. NO MORE TRICKS.
!

KURUMI... THE ROOM YOU'RE GOING TO SEE IS NOT MISUZU HANAMURA'S ROOM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT?
BUT SHE WAS VERY THOROUGH. IT WASN'T JUST THE BODIES THAT WERE SWITCHED...
Misuzu Hanamura
(Faceless Woman)
Mutsumi Hinata
MUTSUMI SWITCHED HERSELF WITH MISUZU HANAMURA TO FAKE HER OWN DEATH.
SCATTER

AREN'T YOU WONDERING WHY THE VICTIM'S BODY MATCHED THE DNA WE OBTAINED FROM THE HAIR SAMPLES WE FOUND IN MUTSUMI'S APARTMENT?
THE ANSWER'S SIMPLE--IT WAS NEVER MUTSUMI'S APARTMENT AT ALL!
YOU MEAN...?!

TO START HER *NEW LIFE...*
...MUTSUMI NEEDED TO MAKE SURE WE WOULD FIND EXACTLY WHAT SHE WANTED US TO!

file.60 END

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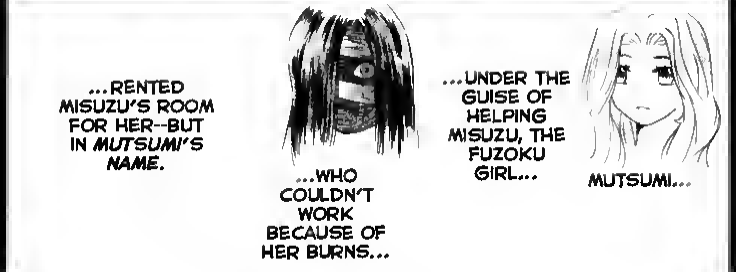
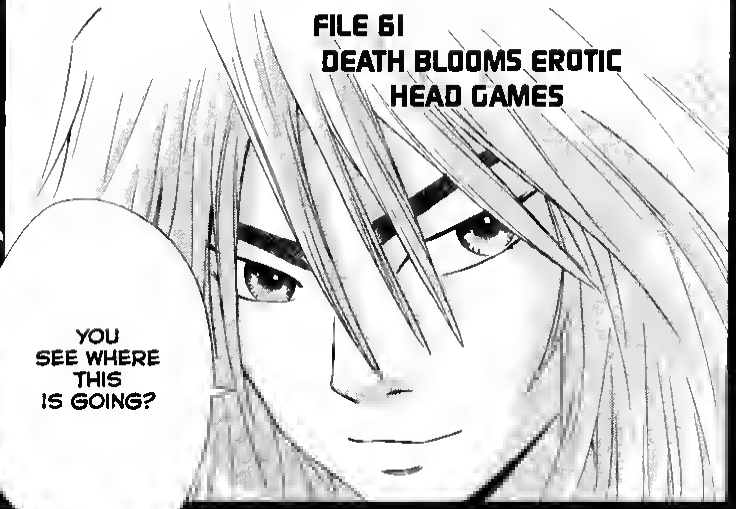
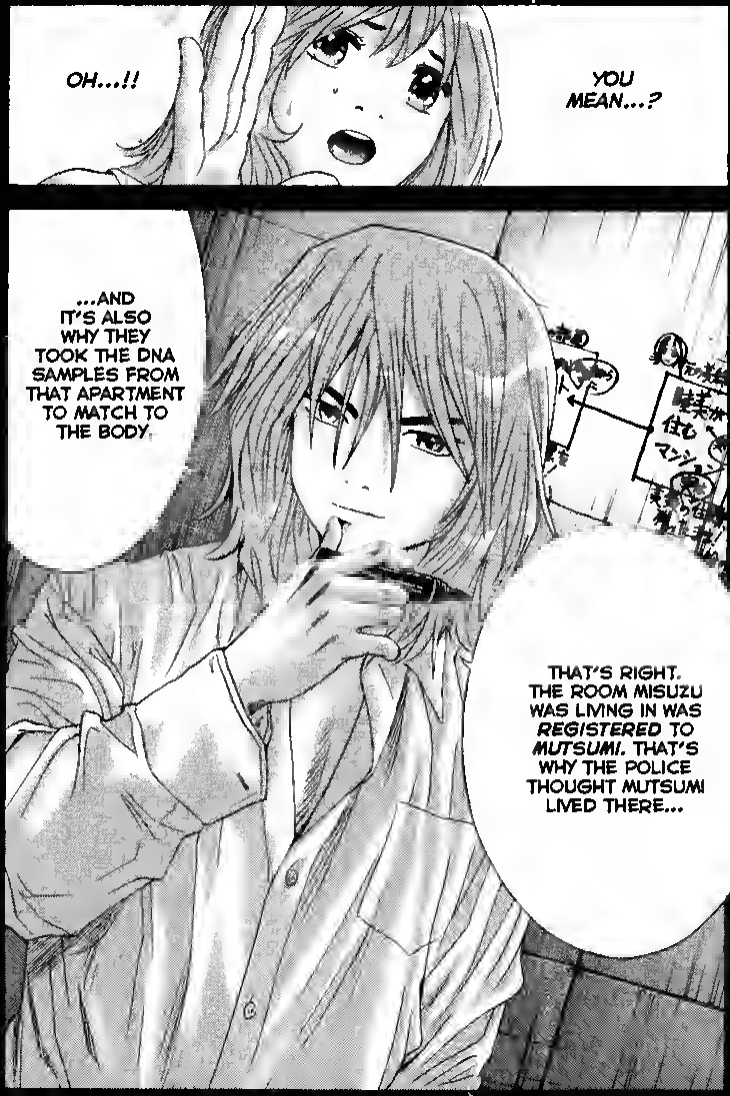

...RENTED MISUZU'S ROOM FOR HER--BUT IN MUTSUMI'S NAME.
...WHO COULDN'T WORK BECAUSE OF HER BURNS...
...UNDER THE GUISE OF HELPING MISUZU, THE FUZOKU GIRL...
MUTSUMI...

FILE 61
DEATH BLOOMS EROTIC HEAD GAMES




OH...!!
YOU MEAN...?
...AND IT'S ALSO WHY THEY TOOK THE DNA SAMPLES FROM THAT APARTMENT TO MATCH TO THE BODY.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE ROOM MISUZU WAS LIVING IN WAS *REGISTERED* TO *MUTSUMI*. THAT'S WHY THE POLICE THOUGHT MUTSUMI LIVED THERE...

IT WAS PERFECT. THAT APARTMENT BUILDING ABOUNDS IN VACANCIES...NOT TO MENTION THE LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE NEIGHBORS...
IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A SHY, DISFIGURED WOMAN...
THE FINGERPRINTS AND HAIR SAMPLES WERE A PERFECT MATCH, OF COURSE... CONFIRMING WHAT WE ALREADY BELIEVED.
SHE MADE US SEE EXACTLY WHAT WE EXPECTED TO SEE!
EXACTLY.
I SEE...
...TO REMAIN COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS.
SO WHEN MUTSUMI VISITED MISUZU SHE MADE IT A POINT TO GREET MISUZU'S NEIGHBORS.
Hello!
HAVE YOU SEEN THE WOMAN WHO LIVED UPSTAIRS?
THAT WAY WHEN THE POLICE QUESTIONED THE NEIGHBORS
OH!
Y-YEAH... I'VE SEEN HER A FEW TIMES.
...they'd confirm her story.

...MUTSUMI SECRETLY MOVES INTO MISUZU'S *OLD* APARTMENT!

SO, WITH MISUZU LIVING AT MUTSUMI'S APARTMENT...

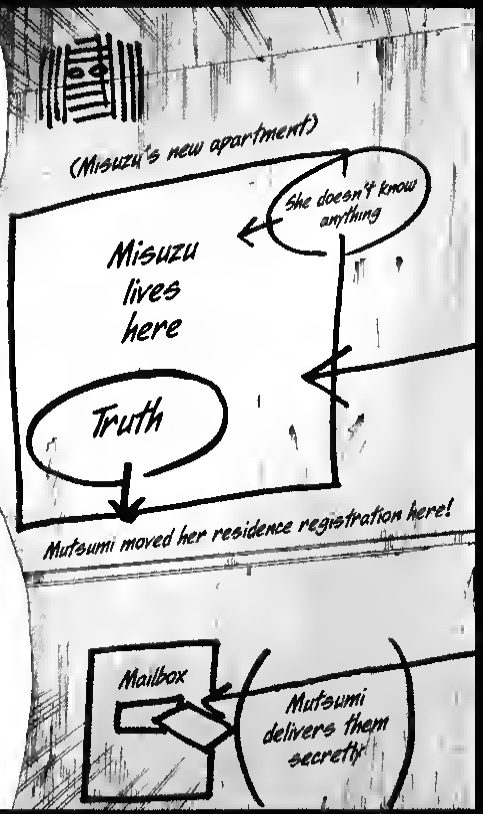
...WHAT ABOUT MISUZU'S RESIDENCE REGISTRATION?

OH!

BUT, INSPECTOR...

MISUZU'S MAIL STILL COMES TO THE OLD APARTMENT, WHICH MUTSUMI THEN DELIVERS TO MISUZU.

MUTSUMI PROBABLY HAS A PO BOX FOR HER OWN MAIL.



FEIGNING KINDNESS, MUTSUMI DID EVERYTHING TO HELP MISUZU MOVE.

MISUZU WAS UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND PEOPLE BECAUSE OF HER CONDITION. MUTSUMI TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE.

MUTSUMI... WHEN YOU VISITED MISUZU'S APARTMENT...
...YOU'D WEAR GLOVES AND A HAT SO YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE BEHIND FINGERPRINTS OR HAIR FOLLICLES.
THEN...

AFTER A MONTH, THE APARTMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN FILLED WITH MISUZU'S FINGERPRINTS, AS WELL.
...YOU SIMPLY WAITED UNTIL MISUZU HAD LIVED IN THE NEW APARTMENT LONG ENOUGH TO LEAVE BEHIND PLENTY OF DNA.
NOW...
Data File
Name
Date of Birth
Birthplace
Height
Measurements
Horoscope
Blood Type
Misuzu Hanamura
Feb. 13, 1976
XX City, Yukui
5'3
Bust 33 Waist 22 Hip 34
Aquarius
A
警視庁データファイル
Misuzu Hirata
March 4, 1974
XX City, Fukui
5'3
Bust 34 Waist 22 Hip
Pisces
A
BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT COULDN'T BE FAKED... YOUR APPEARANCE!
...YOU AND MISUZU HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. AGE, HOME-TOWN, HEIGHT, SIZE AND BLOOD TYPE.

THAT'S WHY YOU NEEDED TO TAKE THE HEAD! WITH THE HEAD MISSING AND ALL THE OTHER PIECES IN PLACE, YOU COULD SWITCH IDENTITIES AND NO ONE WOULD BE THE WISER!
. . . .
. . . .
NOW ALL THAT WAS LEFT...
YOU HAD IT ALL WORKED OUT, DIDN'T YOU?!

YOU LURED MISUZU TO THE PEEP ROOM...
...WAS TO PUT YOUR PLAN INTO ACTION!
AFTER YOU KILLED HER, YOU LOPPED OFF HER HEAD...
...AND WAITED UNTIL THE CUSTOMER ARRIVED.
...SO THAT YOU COULD KILL HER.
HER COMPLETE TRUST IN YOU WAS HER ULTIMATE DOWNFALL

...HE WAS ABOUT TO WITNESS A STAGED MURDER SCENE-- COURTESY OF MUTSUMI HINATA!
Notice: Lamp flashes red when your customer is watching.
Notice: Lamp flashes red when your customer
LITTLE DID HE KNOW...
-TO THE CUSTOMER, IT HAD TO LOOK LIKE YOU WERE REALLY DEAD.-
TO PULL THAT OFF...
...SHE'S DEAD?!
SHE'S...

AFTER ALL, YOU CHOPPED MISUZU'S HEAD OFF FIRST TO ENSURE A QUICK GETAWAY! A GETAWAY YOU MADE AFTER YOU WERE SURE THE CUSTOMER GOT AN EYEFUL OF THE BODY!
...YOU USED THE BLIND SPOT, MAKING IT APPEAR AS IF IT WAS YOUR HEAD ON THE BODY!
AND THEN THERE'S THIS...

BUT WITH A LITTLE COMPUTER COMPOSITING, IT'S EASY TO SEE HOW IT WAS DONE. SEE? IF YOU COMPARE THESE TWO PICTURES...

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE HEAD IS ATTACHED TO THE BODY, CORRECT?
THIS IS THE PICTURE THAT THE *CUSTOMER* TOOK.

...YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THE DECEPTION QUITE EASILY.

THAT'S... THAT'S CRAZY! WHO'D EVER BELIEVE SUCH A STORY?!
GET OUT...! GET OUT OF MY HOUSE!!
YOU CAN'T PROVE ANY OF THIS! THERE'S NO EVIDENCE!
I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANY-THING!!
N-NO!! GET OUT!!
IT'S OVER.
JUST TAKE OFF THE BANDAGES, MUTSUMI.

AH HA HA HA HA HA!!
I'LL PROVE IT! I'LL BURN MY FACE RIGHT HERE!!
!
KURUMI!!
HER FACE IS THE ONLY REAL EVIDENCE WE'VE GOT!
YOU HAVE TO STOP HER! SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO LOSE. NOW! SHE MAY ACTUALLY DO IT!

NO!! DON'T!!
I'M NOT MUTSUMI! I'M MISUZU!! I WAS BURNED IN A FIRE! MY FACE IS RUINED!!
BURNING YOURSELF WON'T KEEP THE TRUTH FROM COMING OUT, MUTSUMI.
THE HEADLESS BODY WAS MISUZU HANAMURA-- AND I CAN PROVE IT!
I MADE S-SURE-- I MEAN, I'M SURE-- BECAUSE I'M MISUZU HANAMURA!!
Y-YOU L-LIE! T-THERE'S NO EVIDENCE!

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS...?
日向睦美
?!
MPD
Illegal Parking
I-I'LL MOVE MY CAR!
I-I'M IN A HURRY...
PLEASE!

SHE'S A FRIEND OF MINE. CUT HER A BREAK, HUH? FOR ME?
PLEASE! I'M SORRY! I- IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I'LL MOVE IT RIGHT AWAY!
YOU'RE THE BEST!
ALL RIGHT, HURUM FOR YOU. HERE'S THE TICKET
SO...LONG TIME NO SEE, MUTSUMI! YOU'RE EVEN CUTER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU!
YOUR FINGER PRINT PLEASE...
JUN, WAIT!!
SORRY, MA AM.
...BUT YOU ARE PARKED IN A CLEARLY LABELED NO PARKING ZONE
NOW, PLEASE YOUR INDEX FINGER HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT. THIS IS THE PARKING TICKET THAT HAS MUTSUMI HINATA'S SIGNATURE... AND FINGERPRINT.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? MAYBE IT'S THE UNIFORM...
UH... DO I...

file.61 END

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...THIS PARKING TICKET HAS YOUR FINGERPRINT ON IT!
EVEN IF YOU BURN YOUR FACE LIKE MISUZU...
FILE 62
DEATH BLOOMS EROTIC
DEATH BECOMES HER
IT'S TIME TO STOP RUNNING, MUTSUMI! PLEASE--JUST ADMIT IT!
うう...
UH...

I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT MY PLAN WAS PERFECT...
H-HOW, KURUMI...? HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?
REMEMBER WHEN YOU CAME TO THE PEEPING TOM AS THE FACELESS WOMAN?
I PUT IT TOGETHER LATER...
GYAAAAH!!

AAAH!! WAIT...!! DON'T MOVE!!
DON'T MAKE ME SHOOT YOU!! I MEAN IT!! DON'T--!!
YOU RAN AWAY. BUT WHY? I COULD HAVE JUST BEEN BLUFFING.
BUT YOU KNEW I WASN'T... BECAUSE YOU KNEW I WAS A COP. YOU KNEW I WAS ARMED
I...I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE.
...BUT... I COULDN'T HELP IT...
...BECAUSE I NEEDED... THIS...

I NEVER TOOK DRUGS WILLINGLY! THEY WERE FORCED ON ME BY KARAKI... THAT BASTARD!!
YOU'RE A DRUG ADDICT...?!
I HAD NO IDEA THAT WAS MY FIRST STEP INTO HELL.
HE EVEN TOOK ME TO THAT PHONY TALENT AGENCY! I WAS SO
HE TOLD ME I COULD BE IN MOVIES!
UM... NINETEEN. BUT I'LL BE TWENTY IN A FEW MONTHS!
HOW OLD ARE YOU, BABY?
HMMM. YOU'RE CUTE...
THEN HE USED IT TO BLACKMAIL ME, SAYING HE'D SELL THE TAPE IF I DIDN'T DO WHAT HE WANTED!
HE GAVE ME AN OUTFIT TO TRY ON...AND HE TAPED ME CHANGING.

...THEN HE GOT ME HOOKED ON HIS DRUGS. I GOT ADDICTED AND WENT INTO DEBT...
AND ONCE I DID...HE JUST HAD MORE AND MORE TO BLACKMAIL ME WITH...AND I FELL DEEPER AND DEEPER...
...WOULD SCREW ME AS PAYMENT FOR THE INTEREST I COULDN'T PAY.
ON MY DAYS OFF, THE LOAN SHARK KARAKI INTRODUCED ME TO...
...SO KARAKI MADE ME WORK IN HIS FUZOKU SHOPS.
YOU CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT A LIVING HELL MY LIFE HAD BECOME!
THERE WAS NO WAY OUT FOR ME, KURUMI.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I WANTED TO GET AWAY-- BUT I KNEW HE'D FIND ME!
OH, GOD... MUTSUMI...
...
N-NO...! THAT'S NOT TRUE! MISUZU WAS... SHE WAS GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
BUT MUTSUMI... YOU KILLED MISUZU...
SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE WITH THOSE HORRIBLE BURNS!
BUT I SAVED HER!
SHE WAS USED JUST LIKE YOU...SHE TRUSTED YOU! HOW COULD YOU?!

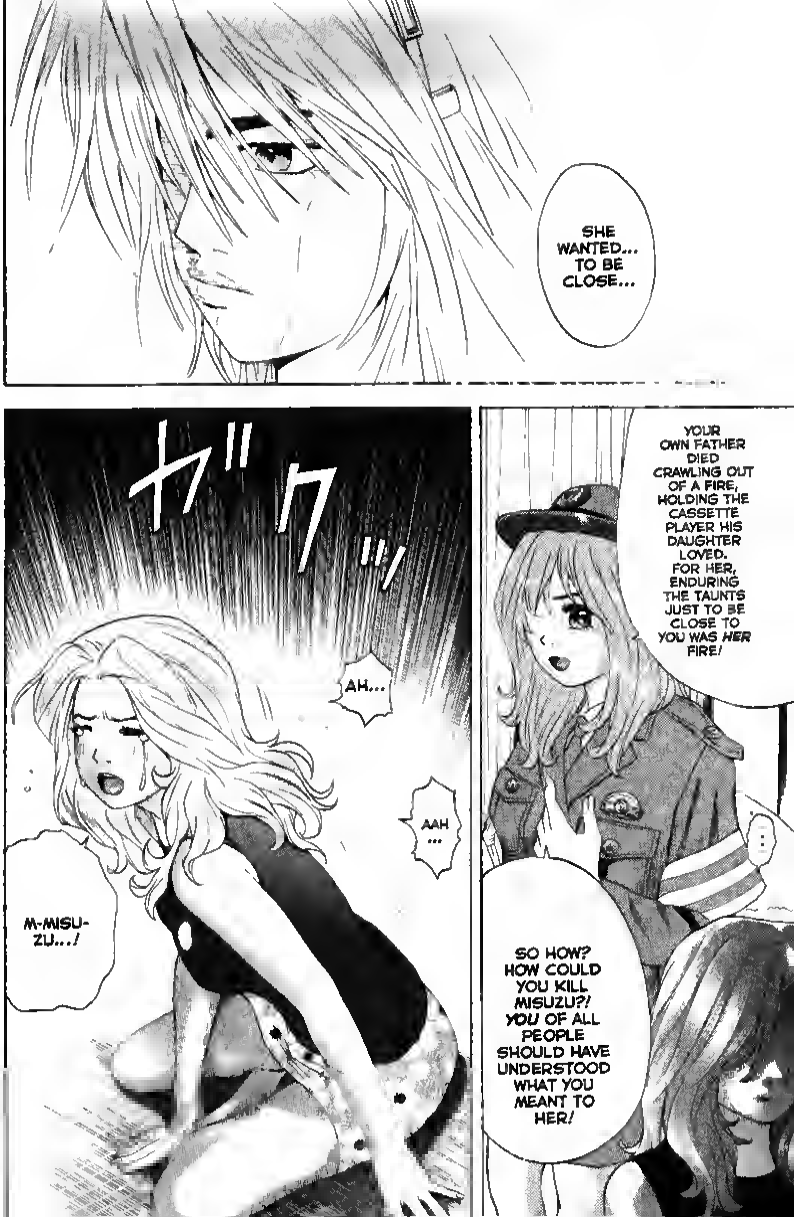
SO SHE OWED IT TO ME!!
SO IN THE END, I MERELY GRANTED HER WISH!
AFTER ALL, I WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED HER LIFE!
HOW DARE YOU?!
YOU'RE SO WRONG...!

I-I CALLED HER A FEW TIMES!
I NEEDED TO MAKE SURE HER FINGER-PRINTS WERE IN THE OF-FICE...! IT WOULD BE A DEAD GIVE-AWAY IF THEY WEREN'T--
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY?!
MISUZU WENT TO THE FUZOKU TOWN, EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE CALLED HER "FACELESS WOMAN" AND LAUGHED AT HER!
WHAT...? SHE WAS...?!
SHE WAS THERE EVERY DAY!
EVERY DAY, MUTSUMI!

AS YOU KNOW...
...MISUZU HAD NO FAMILY. SHE WAS ALL ALONE LIKE YOU. SO YOU SHOULD KNOW!
YOU SHOULD KNOW WHY SHE'D GO TO TOWN, EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW SHE'D FEEL MISERABLE!
.....!
REMEMBER WHEN I VISITED YOUR HOUSE?
DADDY LOVES THE TRACK...
HE GOES THERE A LOT.
WAIT... SO WHILE YOU WORK...
...YOUR FATHER GAMBLES?

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
HE STAYED WITH ME WHEN MY MOTHER AND SISTER LEFT ME ALL ALONE.
THAT COUNTS FOR SOME-THING... RIGHT?
MUTSUMI...
OH! THE RACE WILL BE OVER SOON.../ I HAVE TO GO!
GO? GO WHERE?
TO THE RACE TRACK, OF COURSE! I WANT TO WALK HOME WITH HIM.../
♡
HE DOESN'T LIKE ME GOING INSIDE PLACES LIKE THAT...

AND YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE MISUZU HAD.
...SO I JUST WAIT FOR HIM AT THE GATE AND WATCH HIM BET. HE'S ALL I HAVE, AFTER ALL!
THAT'S WHY SHE WENT INTO TOWN. SHE WANTED TO BE NEAR YOU.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS KIND TO HER IN TOKYO.


SHE WANTED... TO BE CLOSE...
カッ
AH...
AAH...
M-MISUZU...!
YOUR OWN FATHER DIED CRAWLING OUT OF A FIRE, HOLDING THE CASSETTE PLAYER HIS DAUGHTER LOVED. FOR HER, ENDURING THE TAUNTS JUST TO BE CLOSE TO YOU WAS *HER* FIRE!
SO HOW? HOW COULD YOU KILL MISUZU?! *YOU* OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU MEANT TO HER!

N-NOT ONLY THAT... BUT A-ANYONE COULD STILL F-FIND OUT ABOUT MY PAST AS A FUZOKU GIRL...
EVEN... EVEN IF I H-HAD KILLED KARA-KI... I'M OVER ONE MILLION YEN IN D-DEBT...!
THEY COULD F-FIND OUT I WAS IN PORN VIDEOS...AND SEE THE PICTURES OF ME SCAT-TERED ALL OVER THE INTERNET!
I H-HAD TO *DIE*...! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY FOR MUSTUMI HINATA TO *START* A *NEW LIFE*!! SOB!
I *H-HAD* TO *S-START OVER!*
I'M SORRY, MISUZU.
I'M SO, SO SORRY ...

AS PENANCE FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME...
...I THINK A POUND OF FLESH IS A GOOD START!!

STUPID BITCH! LESSON ONE-- NEVER LEAVE SHARP OBJECTS NEAR POTENTIAL TORTURE VICTIMS!

WHAT...?!
KURUMI!! WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
MUTSUMI!!
NOOOOOII
ANSWER ME!! WHAT'S GOING-
チャカ

NOBODY FUCKS WITH ME, BITCH!! NOBODY!!
YOU'RE DEAD, BITCH! DEAD!!
NO!
GYAAAAAH!!

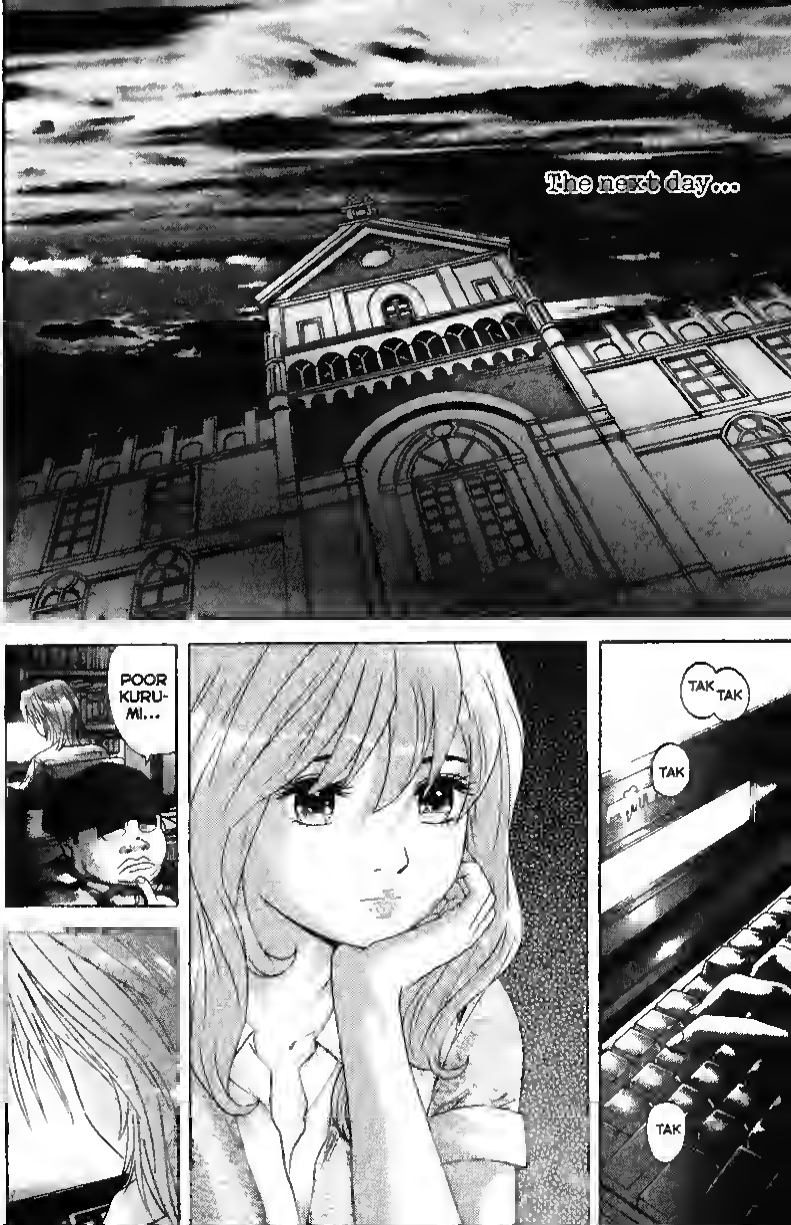
HE WAS THERE-- JUST AS I SUSPECT-ED!
KARAKI...?!
MUTSUMI!
MUTSUMI! HOLD ON!
UUUNH! YOU B-BITCH! YOU S-SHOT ME!!
NO! TRY NOT TO TALK! I-I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE!
UHH...

NO... IT'S OKAY... I THINK... I THINK THIS IS... GOD'S PUNISH... MENT...

MUTSUMI!!

NO... MUTSU-MI... PLEASE... D-DON'T DIE...!

I...
...I CAN'T...
HNH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...!!
ぱーぽー
ぱーぽー


The next day...
POOR KURU-MI...
TAK TAK
TAK
TAK

すっ…
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP.
I CAN'T... ...HELP IT.
……！
I CAN'T PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH...
さっ…
I DON'T... I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT KIND OF... EMOTION... BUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING...
ウィィ…
OH-- THIS IS FOR YOU.
ガタ…！
HUH?

THE POLICE FOUND IT IN MUTSUMI'S ROOM.
IT USED TO BE YOURS, RIGHT?
WHAT...?
CLICK
I'D RECOG-NIZE THAT CHICKEN SCRATCH ANYWHERE.
...I THINK IT'S YOURS.
THERE WAS A CASSETTE INSIDE. BY THE LOOKS OF THE HANDWRIT-ING...

Yutaka Ozaki "Kaikisen"
SONY
HF
...THAT YOU LIKED OZAKI, TOO!
LET'S LISTEN TO-GETH ER!
OH... OKAY!
I CAN HAVE THIS TAPE TOO?
ARE YOU SURE...?
YEP.
I DIDN'T KNOW... ♡

file.62 END

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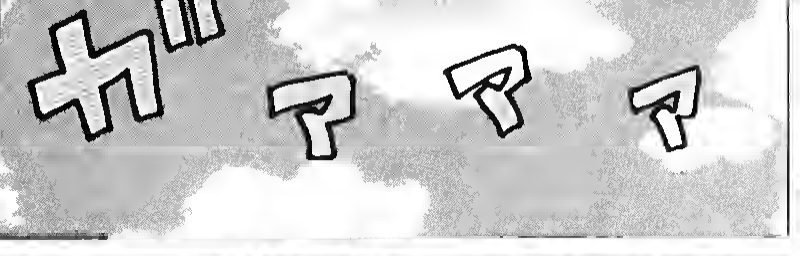
Chapter 7
Mountain Cabin Psycho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IT'S SO DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS, YOU CAN'T EVEN DRIVE THERE IN WINTER!
PLUS...
...UH...
PLUS, IT'S REALLY SECLUDED!
THE SPA WE'RE GOING TO IS GREAT...!

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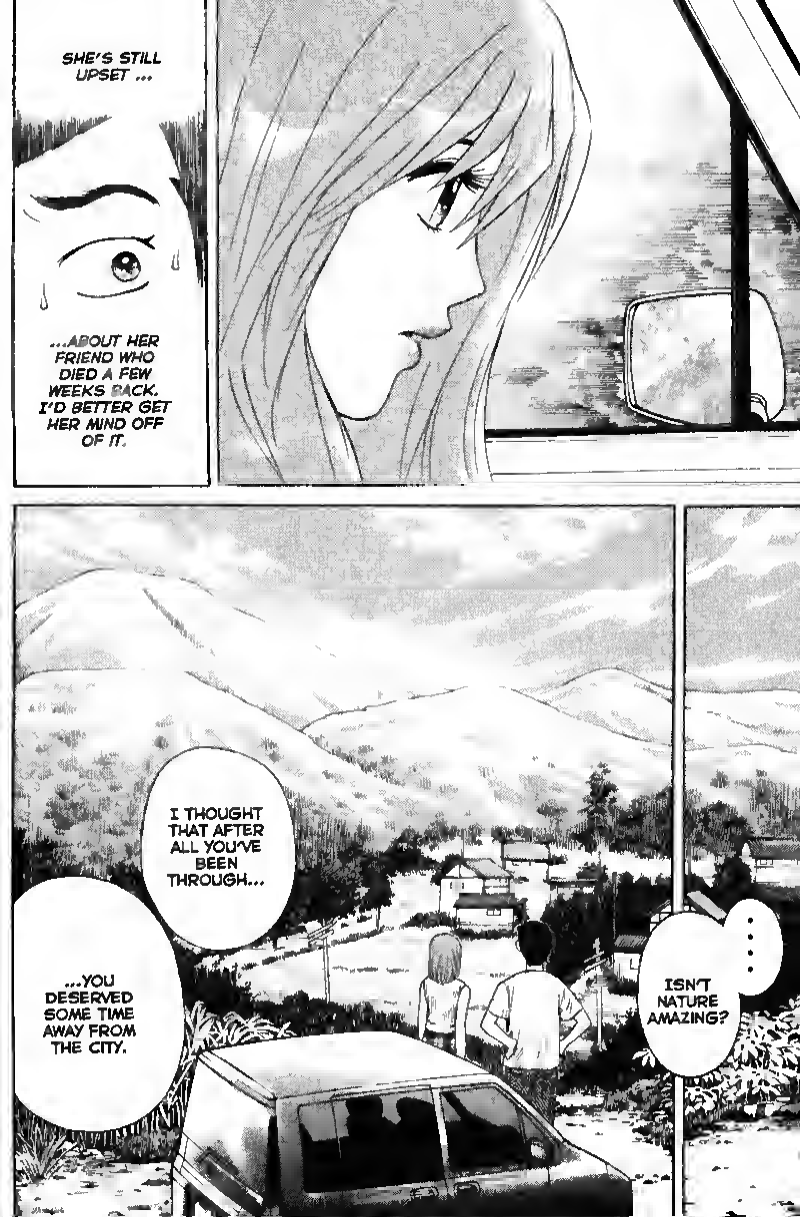
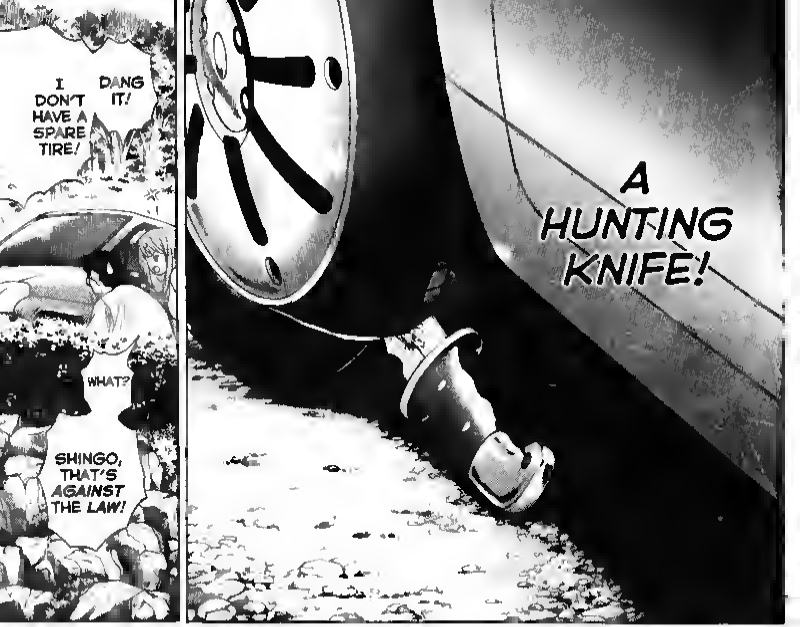
OH...
...THE VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE SPA IS--
FILE 63
MOUNTAIN CABIN PSYCHO
THE USUAL SUSPECTS

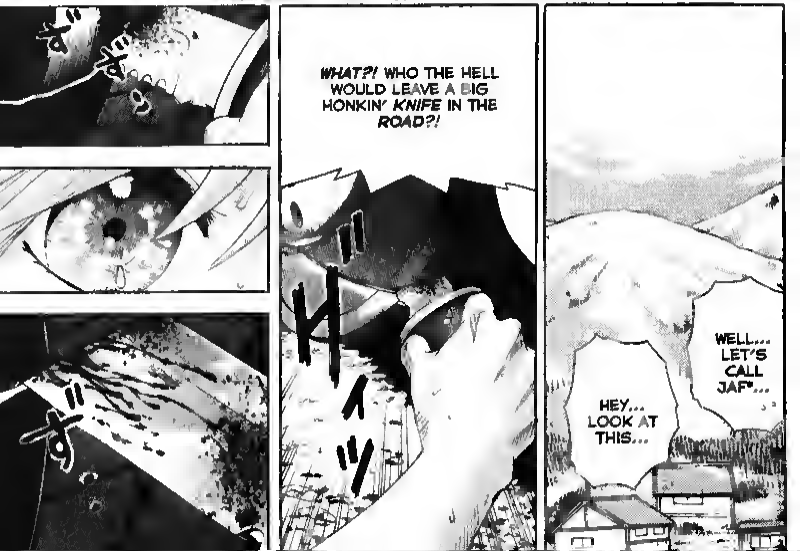

SHE'S STILL UPSET ...
...ABOUT HER FRIEND WHO DIED A FEW WEEKS BACK. I'D BETTER GET HER MIND OFF OF IT.
I THOUGHT THAT AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH...
...YOU DESERVED SOME TIME AWAY FROM THE CITY.
ISN'T NATURE AMAZING?
.....

...I SUGGESTED THIS TRIP.
THAT'S WHY...
HUH?
YES?
W-WHAT IS IT?
...
SHIN-GO...
THIS IS GREAT! MAYBE SHE'LL EVEN SKINNY-DIP WITH ME...
...BUT I'LL KEEP THAT TO MYSELF FOR NOW!
HERE WE GO!
OKAY!
トゥ
YOU'RE SO SWEET...I LOVE YOU.

WHAAAT?!
SHINGO?
OH!
LOOKS LIKE I DROVE OVER SOMETHING...
AW, CRAP...!
YEAH...THE ROAD WAS SO BUMPY I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL IT.
FLAT TIRE?
WHAT THE--?! THERE'S A HUGE GASH IN THE TIRE!!
LET ME PUSH THE CAR SO I CAN GET A BETTER LOOK AT IT...
OKAY...
OH!



*JAF: Japan Automobile Federation. They provide assistance to stranded motorists.



BLOOD?!

I'LL CALL JAF AND THE INN...
OH!

One Missed Call

IT...IT MUST BE AN ANIMAL'S! YEAH! MAYBE A HUNTER D-DROPPED IT OR SOMETHING...
OUR LUCK BLOWS! I MEAN, WHAT ARE THE ODDS?!

WHOA! IT'S... IT'S BLOOD!
L-LOOKS FRESH, TOO...

OH, KURU-MI...
BUT I'M OFF-DUTY! WHAT COULD HE WANT?!
IT'S INSPECTOR HIMURO...!!
THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO BE OUT SHOPPING UNTIL FIVE.
?
...IT'S NO USE CALLING THE INN!
UH, THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE. I TOLD YOU IT WAS DEEP IN THE WOODS. IT'S AT LEAST FORTY-FIVE MINUTES FROM HERE--AND THAT'S BY CAR.
IT'S NOT EVEN LUNCHTIME, YET! DON'T TELL ME WE HAVE TO WALK TO THE INN FROM HERE!
WHAAAAT?!
ゴロ ゴロ
THUN-DER?! THAT'S ALL WE NEED!
UM...

THE SKY IS GETTING DARK...
...
?!
NOW IT'S GONNA RAIN?! NO WAY AM I GETTING LAID...
...ON THIS TRIP!
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...
WHY WOULD A HUNTER LEAVE A KNIFE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD?
UNLESS...

KURUMI!
OVER THERE! LOOK ...!
♡
THERE'S A CABIN!
AND THE LIGHT'S ON! MAYBE SOMEONE'S INSIDE...! LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!

Huff...
Huff...
Huff...

MAN! THAT... PANT... WAS SOME... HUFF... HIKE... BUT WE MADE IT!
Huff
Pant
IT LOOKS LIKE... PANT...A REST CABIN FOR HIKERS...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S HOME. MAYBE THEY CAN HELP.
WORTH A SHOT.
PROBABLY WON'T FIND A SPARE TIRE HERE

LET'S GO IN-SIDE...
SCRATCH THAT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S QUITE A FEW PEOPLE HERE.
ヴァァ
IT'S SO QUIET AND CREEPY ...
CREEPI-NESS IS YOUR BAG, RIGHT?
EH, WANNA GO FIRST?
COPS FIRST AND ALL?
WHAAAAT?!
HERE GOES...
UH... HELLO? ANYBODY HOME...?

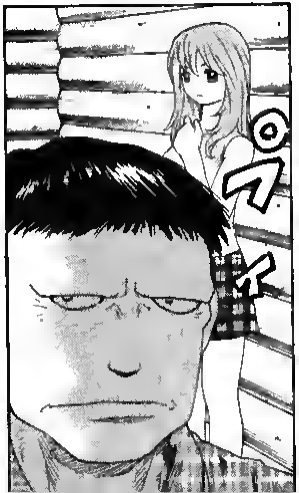
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? HA HA!

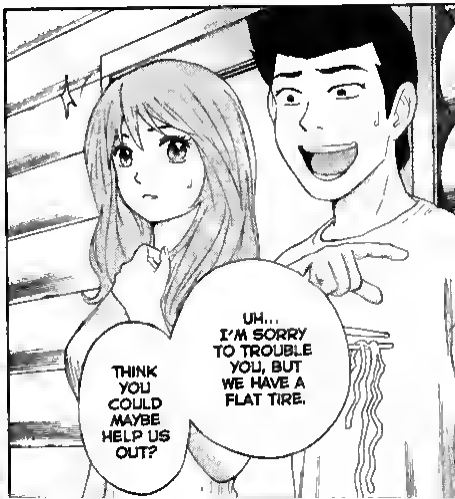
OH, GOOD! FINALLY ANOTHER WOMAN! I WAS AFRAID I WAS GOING TO BE...
♡
...THE ONLY INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM AT THIS PARTY!
♡ Ha ha!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'RE KIDDING!
IT LOOKS AS IF ALL OF US ARE HAVING A RUN OF BAD LUCK!

ERM, SO TO SPEAK...




UH... I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, BUT WE HAVE A FLAT TIRE.
THINK YOU COULD MAYBE HELP US OUT?

WELL...
...I CAME UP HERE TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE MOUNTAINS, BUT...
...I SPRAINED MY ANKLE.
SO I THOUGHT I'D REST HERE UNTIL THE PAIN WENT AWAY.

SO I CAME HERE.
AND I'M A GEOLOGIST. I WAS UP HERE RESEARCHING THE HOT SPRINGS.
I PARKED MY CAR UP BY THE OBSERVATION PLATFORM WHILE I WAS WORKING...
...BUT I GOT LOST.

ピカッ
HERE IT COMES...
LIGHT-NING!
ゴロゴロ
EEEEEEEK!!

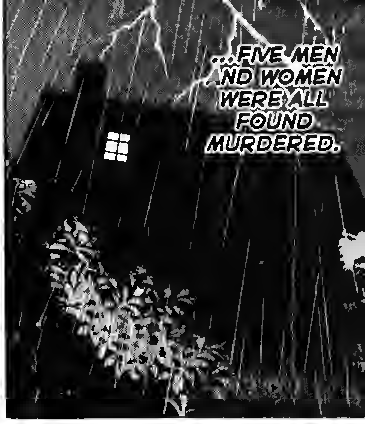
I GUESS WE'RE STUCK HERE.
HEH HEH. LOOKS LIKE A STORM'S BREWING. IT'S GOING TO RAIN LIKE HELL.
WHOA! WHAT THE HELL?!
!!
L-LET'S GO, KURUMI!
WE CAN WAIT FOR JAF IN THE CAR!

HEL-LO?
HIMURO AGAIN?
INSPEC-TOR?
WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE CAR IN THIS!
B R E E E P
OH.../ MY PHONE!
I'M SORRY... I WAS DRIVING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS AND LOST THE SIGNAL...
BUT YOU DID RE-CEIVE MY MESSAGE, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, YEAH... BUT I'M OFF TODAY, SO...
HELLO, OFFICER AYAKI.
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER MY FIRST CALL?
I'M AWARE OF THAT.

I'M ALSO AWARE THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS ON CALL.
MURDER DOESN'T TAKE A VACATION, YOU SEE.
I CALLED BECAUSE I WAS CONCERNED FOR YOUR SAFETY, KURUMI.
WHAT?!

NOW-- EXACTLY WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM? THE CAR?
NO, A CABIN WE'VE GOT A FLAT TIRE, SO. .
...COR-RECT?
NOW-- YOU'RE AT THE BASE OF THE MOUN-TAIN IN FUDOUMYOU-OUSAN...
SIGH... YOUR CELL PHONE HAS A GPS TRACKER IN IT, REMEMBER?
H-HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WHAT?!
THREE HOURS AGO, IN A COTTAGE ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS FROM YOUR LOCATION...
OH... I WAS HOPING THAT WASN'T THE CASE.

ALL THE VICTIMS WERE STABBED REPEATEDLY...
WHAT?!


...FIVE MEN AND WOMEN WERE ALL FOUND MURDERED.

...AND THE POLICE SUSPECT THE KILLER IS HIDING SOMEWHERE NEARBY.

file.63 END

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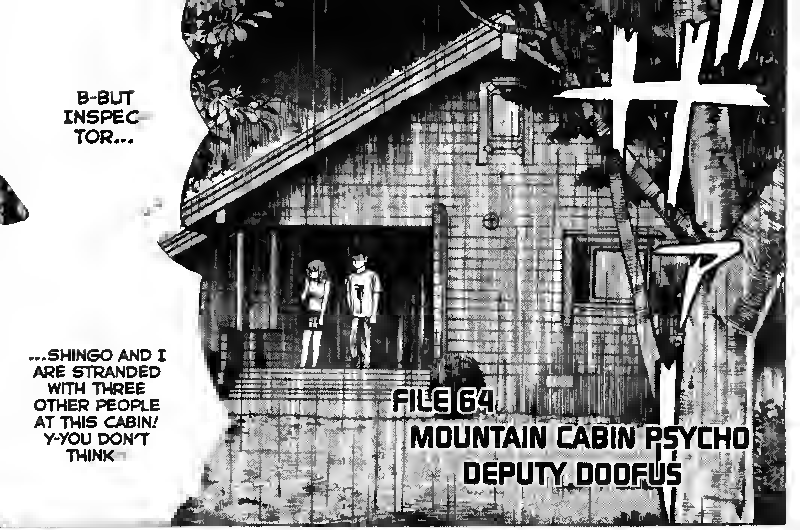
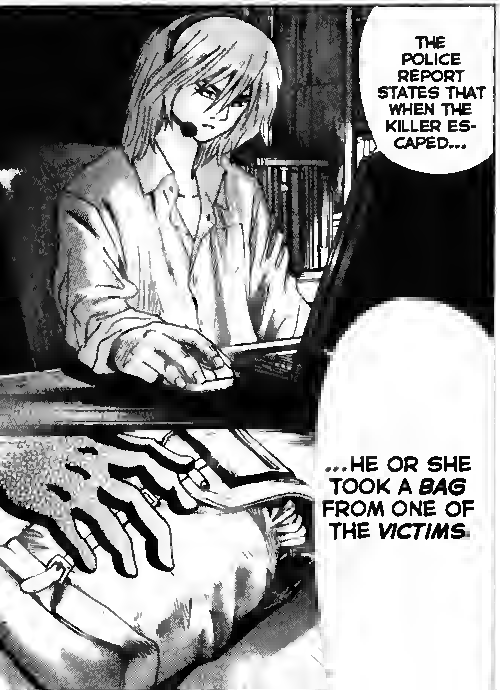
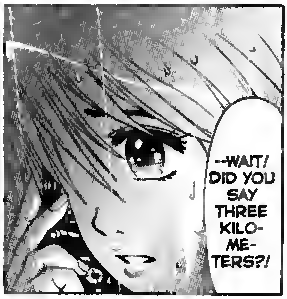
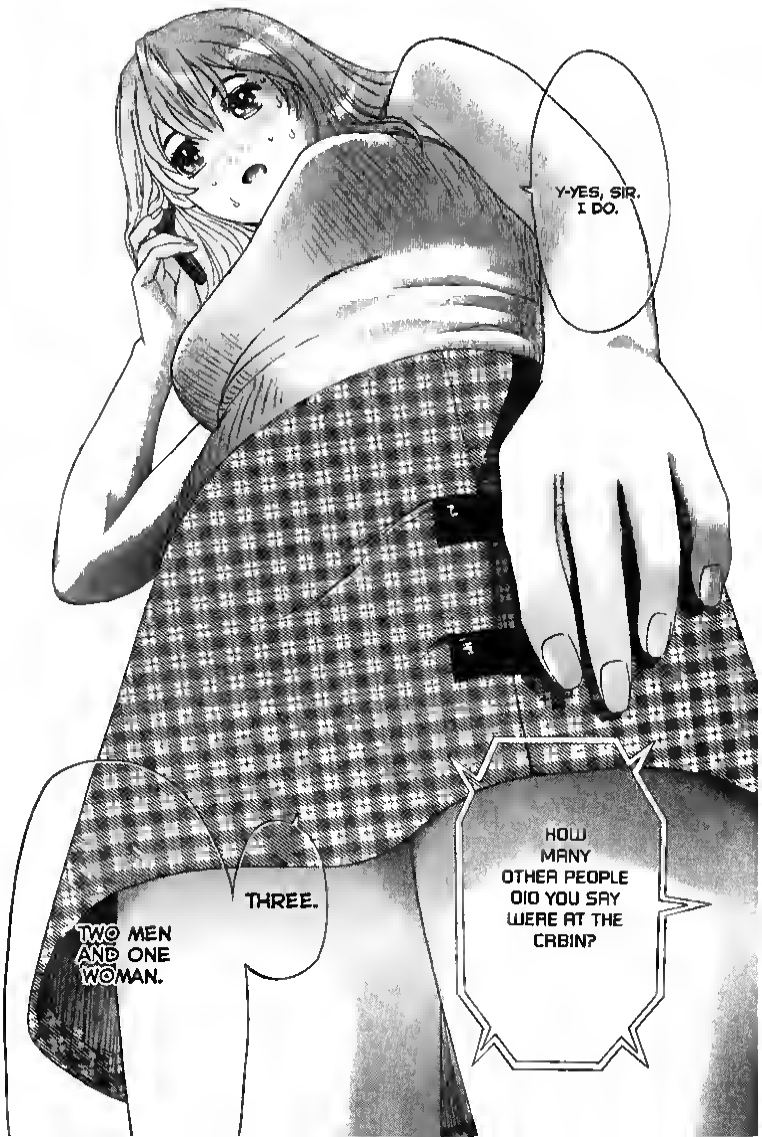

B-BUT INSPEC TOR...
...SHINGO AND I ARE STRANDED WITH THREE OTHER PEOPLE AT THIS CABIN! Y-YOU DON'T THINK
FILE 64
MOUNTAIN CABIN PSYCHO DEPUTY DOOFUS


THE POLICE REPORT STATES THAT WHEN THE KILLER ES-CAPED...
...HE OR SHE TOOK A *BAG* FROM ONE OF THE *VICTIMS*.


--WAIT! DID YOU SAY THREE KILO-ME-TERS?!

A-ARE YOU SURE THE KILLER IS *THAT CLOSE*?!


Y-YES, SIR. I DO.
HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE DID YOU SAY WERE AT THE CABIN?
THREE.
TWO MEN AND ONE WOMAN.

BOB TRACKED THE SIGNAL FROM THE CELL PHONE THAT WAS IN THE STOLEN BAG.
YO.

...THAT YOUR CELL IS USING NOW. SO THE KILLER'S IN THE SAME AREA AS YOU.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T NARROW IT ANY FURTHER THAN THAT
KURUMI... DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
THE LAST CELL SITE THAT PICKED UP THE PHONE'S SIGNAL...
...WAS THE SAME ONE...
iPHONE

YOU DON'T THINK ONE OF *THEM* IS...?!
WELL...
NOT NECESSARILY... THOUGH I WOULDN'T RULE IT OUT. WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

THE OTHER ONE IS KIND OF SURLY. HE'S WEARING CASUAL CLOTHES, JEANS AND A SHIRT.
HE'S IN A SUIT. A GEOLOGIST, HE SAID.
THERE'S AN OLDER MAN...
...THE WOMAN IS YOUNG. SHE LOOKS ATHLETIC, LIKE A HIKER...
Mountain Cabin
UNLESS THERE'S A SPECIFIC REASON NOT TO...
IT'S LIKELY A ONE-PERSON CRIME.
I THINK WE CAN RULE OUT ANY CHANCE THEY'RE ALL INVOLVED IN THIS TOGETHER.
HMM...
REALLY?
...ACCOMPLICES USUALLY WEAR SIMILAR CLOTHES TO BLEND IN WITH ONE ANOTHER.
WHY?

KURU-MI...
...KEEP YOUR PHONE ON, ALL RIGHT?
AND USE YOUR EARPHONE.
OH-- YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE YOU'RE A COP, HAVE YOU?
NOPE.
I'LL LET YOU KNOW...
...IF ANYTHING COMES UP.
WHAAAAAT?!
THERE'S A KILLER IN THE CABIN?!

HELP? ME?!
WELL, I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP!
BUT...
...WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?!
SHH!
QUIET! THEY'LL HEAR YOU!
OH... S-SORRY!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
!!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO--
WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT CATCHING A KILLER?!

A POLICE-MAN?!
I WAS ON A CALL AND SAW A CAR STRANDED ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE AROUND FOR MILES, SO...
!?
A COP?
OH, GOOD TIMING!
I'M...
...KURUMI AYAKI FROM CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS...
...AND I SURE COULD USE YOUR HELP!

...BUT I ASSUME YOU'RE HERE ABOUT THE MURDER?
I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING BEFORE...
ACCIDENTALLY, I ASSURE YOU. BUT I'M STILL GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
ピタ...!
OH! GOOD TO MEET YOU, OFFICER!
C-CRIMINAL INVES-TIGA-TIONS?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS? ♡
OH...!
I... I'M AMANO.
HOW RUDE OF ME!
IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU.
I THOUGHT KURUMI WANTED HELP!
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!
HMPH!
MAN... I'M GLAD THERE'S AN EXPERIENCED OFFICER...
...ON THE SCENE!
THE MURDER IS THE REAL REASON I'M UP HERE...EVEN THOUGH I'M A ROOKIE.
I WAS IN THE AREA WHEN THE CALL CAME.

YOU TWO WERE JUST OUT FOR A DRIVE?
BET YOU DIDN'T PLAN FOR THIS, EH? HEH!
NO, I'M HER FIANCÉ...
OH! YOU MEAN SHE ISN'T HERE OFFICIALLY?
ARE YOU AN OFFICER, TOO?
DID YOU HEAR THAT, INSPECTOR? THERE'S AN OFFICER ON SCENE...
KURUMI ...
...DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN NOT EVEN WITH OFFICER [illegible].
AND DON'T TELL HIM YOU'RE ON THE PHONE WITH ME--UNDERSTOOD?

UM... OFFICER AYAKI...
..YOU WERE OFF TODAY, RIGHT?
HUH? OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
OKAY.
HE'S ALWAYS SO SUSPICIOUS!
DID YOU RECEIVE A CALL FROM THE MAIN OFFICE, TOO?
DID THEY SEND YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE IN THE AREA?
THE KILLER DOESN'T KNOW THIS, BUT...
CORRECT.
...THERE'S A CELL PHONE IN A BAG THAT WAS TAKEN FROM ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

That's amazing!
WOOOW!!
THAT'S SO HIGH-TECH! YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF!
WE FOUND THE KILLER'S GENERAL LOCATION BY TRACKING ITS SIGNAL.
I WAS ON MY BICYCLE WHEN I GOT THE CALL.
I HAD ALREADY PASSED YOUR CAR, SO I DECIDED TO CHECK OUT THE CABIN.
THAT'S PRETTY MUCH ALL I KNOW. SORRY.
OH, NO! YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP!
HMPH.
WELL, FOLKS...

MA'AM?
OH... AND LADIES FIRST.
!
...I'LL NEED YOUR NAMES AND OCCUPATIONS.

KAZUO ODA.
HEH.
YOKO TAKASHIMA. I'M A PHOTOGRAPHER.
I'M ONLY A BEGINNER, THOUGH...

ICHIRO TANAKA.
OCCUPATION... UNEMPLOYED.

I'M A GEOLOGIST RESEARCHING THE HOT SPRINGS.
I SEE...AND YOU, SIR?

HE GLOSSED OVER US PRETTY WELL...
GOOD JOB! ♡
YUP.
...YOU'RE A FREELANCE WRITER...
...AND Y-YOU'RE HIS FIANCÉE...
A AND .
?
Excuse yourself from the room.
O-OKAY...
Kurumi ...
...I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
TOILET
YOU THINK ONE OF THESE PEOPLE IS THE KILLER?! ARE YOU SURE?!
WHAAAAAT?!

BUT HOW CAN I...?
REALLY?
REALLY. CALL THE CELL PHONE.
THE KILLER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE CELL PHONE.
THE PHONE...?
SO...
...YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL.
One p.m.--Businessman
Jeans--Male

WHAT DOES HE...?
LISTEN CARE-FULLY...
..THE RINGING PHONE...
...MIGHT SET OFF THE KILLER.
IF THE KILLER MAKES A MOVE, YOU NEED TO BE READY TO SHOOT TO KILL, IF NECESSARY.

KILL...? BUT I'VE NEVER...
OUR PERP MURDERED FIVE PEOPLE WITHOUT R MOMENT'S THOUGHT RLREROY
IF YOU HESITATE ..
...DON'T DOUBT...
...THAT THE SUSPECT WILL TRY TO KILL YOU ALL!

THE POINT IS--WHEN I CALL THE PHONE...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE A LIFE-OR-DEATH DECISION!

file:64 END

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FILE 65v
MOUNTAIN CABIN PSYCHO
DIAL M FOR MURDERER
YES?
!
UH, OFFICER AMANO?
MAY I HAVE A SECOND ...?

I GOT A CALL FROM THE MAIN OFFICE, AND...
WELL...
YES? WHAT'S UP?
OOH! GOOD IDEA!!
♡
ポン

SO, WE CALL THE CELL PHONE THAT THE KILLER STOLE, HUH?!
INGENIOUS! IF HE STILL HAS IT, THAT'LL SHOW US WHO THE KILLER IS!
KURUMI!!
SHUT THAT IDIOT UP!!
IF THE KILLER HEARS HIM, HE'LL DITCH THE PHONE!
THEN OUR PLAN IS RUINED!
Y-YES, SIR!
?

OOPS! S-SORRY!
WHAT IF THE KILLER HEARD YOU?!
SHHH!
IT'S REALLY A GREAT IDEA!
AND THEY SAY IGNO-RANCE IS BLISS...
WELL? IS THE GIG UP?
D did I ruin it?!

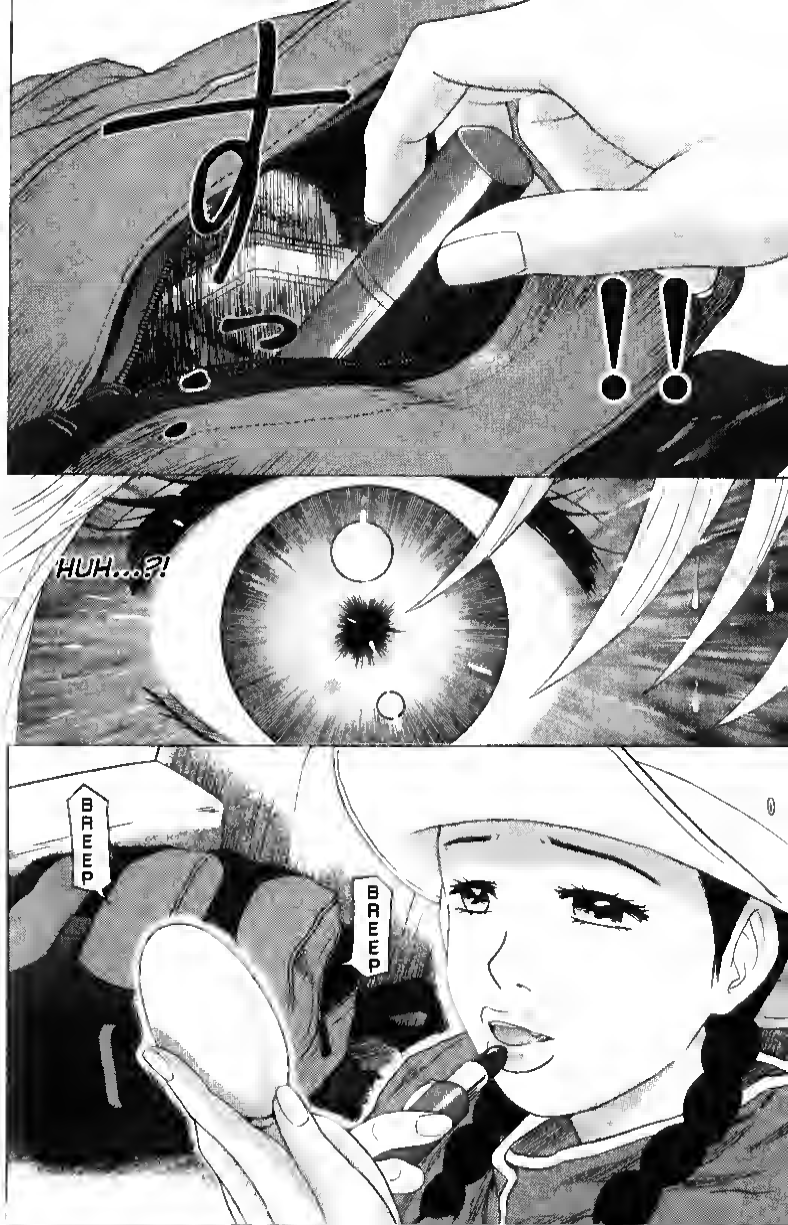
NO...I DON'T THINK THEY HEARD ANYTHING.
YES, SIR.
WELL, LET'S HOPE NOT.
ANYWAY... ARE YOU READY?
SHINGO... IT'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN.
YOU AND AMANO BE READY, OKAY?

I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU GUYS...
HUH?
M-ME, TOO?!
YEP!
PLEASE?
LEAVE IT TO ME, BABY!
Clench

ALL RIGHT... HERE WE GO...
BIP
BREEEEP
NOW... WHICH ONE? WHICH ONE OF THEM IS THE KILLER?!

!!
BREEEP
BREEP
OH! IT'S RINGING FROM YOKO TAKASHIMA'S BAG!!

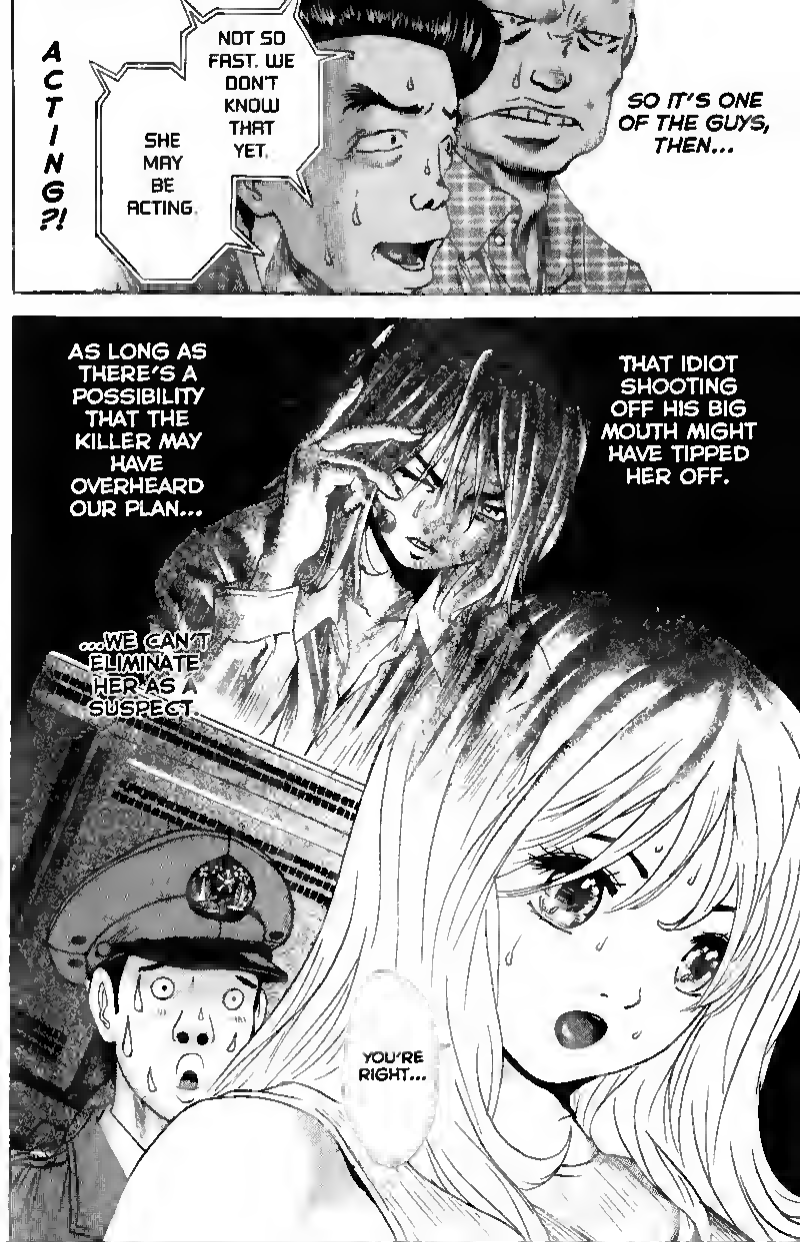
!
YOKO TAKASHIMA IS THE KILLER!
A GIRL?
READY?!
GOOD! I CAN MUSCLE A CHICK!
すっ
!!


!!
HUH...?!
BEEEP
BEEEP

WHAT?!
UH...SHE'S IGNORING IT! SHE'S JUST PUTTING ON MAKEUP!
WHAT'S HER REACTION?!
W-WAIT...I WAIT, YOU GUYS!
...AND TELL HER THAT HER PHONE'S RINGING.
GOOD! NOW GO TO HER...
HERE WE GO!
WAIT!
WHAT...?!
B-BUT ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS...?
WHAT...?
STOP AMANO AND SHINGO!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
JUST DO IT!

EXCUSE ME... TAKASHIMA-SAN? I THINK YOUR CELL PHONE IS RINGING.
HUH?
CELL PHONE? OH--I DON'T HAVE ONE.
BEEP BEEP
BUT... THAT RINGING IT'S COMING FROM YOUR BAG.
OH? YEAH... THAT IS WEIRD.
PERSONALLY, I HATE CELL PHONES!
ANNOYING TOOLS FOR ANNOYING PEOPLE, I SAY. YAKKING LOUDLY ON THE SUBWAY ABOUT NOTHING IMPORTANT...
!
OH MY GOD!
IT'S COVERED WITH BLOOD!!

THE KILLER'S ON TO US.
SO IT ISN'T YOURS?
OF COURSE NOT!
WHO THE HELL PUT THIS IN MY BAG?!
INSPECTOR!
ISN'T SHE THE KILLER?!
PEOPLE WHO OWN CELL PHONES INSTINCTIVELY REACT TO THE RINGING.
HOWEVER, SHE WAS IGNORING IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?!
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, RIGHT?
THAT SOMEONE IS TRYING TO...
...SHIFT THE BLAME TO HER.
CORRECT
THE KILLER COULD HAVE SLIPPED IT INTO HER BAG AT ANY TIME
WELL, AT LEAST WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN...


ACTING?!
SHE MAY BE ACTING.
NOT SO FAST. WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET.
SO IT'S ONE OF THE GUYS, THEN...
AS LONG AS THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE KILLER MAY HAVE OVERHEARD OUR PLAN...
THAT IDIOT SHOOTING OFF HIS BIG MOUTH MIGHT HAVE TIPPED HER OFF.
...WE CAN'T ELIMINATE HER AS A SUSPECT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...

LOOKS LIKE OUR KILLER IS QUITE CLEVER AND QUICK...
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!
HUH?
HEY!
THIS IS A CAMERA PHONE! I HAVE ONE JUST LIKE IT!
BUT AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE KILLER IS AMONG THEM.
OH GOD, SHINGO... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
WHAT?
ARE THERE ANY PICTURES?
CAMERA PHONE?
HUH...?! WHAT'S THIS?!
RIGHT...

A-ARE THEY *DEAD?!*
!!
KURUMI, TAKE THE PHONE AWAY FROM TANAKA! *NOW!!*
THERE MAY BE SOMETHING IN THOSE PICTURES WE CAN USE!
WE CAN'T AVOID IT ANY LONGER... TELL THEM YOU'RE A *COP!*

HAND OVER THE PHONE!
?
POLICE
RIGHT!
THEN THIS PICTURE IS OF...
...A REAL MURDER SCENE?!
WHAT? YOU'RE A COP?!
I'M OFFICER KURUMI AYAKI FROM CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS!
GIVE ME THE PHONE, TANAKA...

THE PHONE, TANAKA. NOW.
HMPH
すっ
!
ME, TOO?
SO S-STAY! STAY WHERE Y-YOU ARE!
O-ONE OF YOU MAY BE A K-KILLER...!
UH... E-EVERY-ONE... PLEASE DON'T M-MOVE...!

OH, GOD... IT'S OUR MURDER SCENE, ALL RIGHT. THERE'S BLOOD EVERYWHERE...!
LET'S SEE...
...THERE'RE PICTURES OF THE VICTIMS... AND...

CLICK
CLICK
YOU'RE DOING GREAT
AM I D-DOING THIS RIGHT...?

WAIT...THIS IS THE SAME KNIFE WE FOUND WEDGED IN SHINGO'S TIRE!
OH!!

...OH! A SHOT OF A KNIFE! THE KILLER'S KNIFE, NO LESS...
CAN YOU SEE THE HAND HOLDING IT?
NO...JUST THE BLOODY BLADE.

file.65 END

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NO, I CAN'T!
WHAT ABOUT HIS CLOTHES? WHAT'S HE WEARING?!
CAN YOU SEE HIS FACE?!
THE KILLER IS IN THE PICTURE?!
UM...
IS ANYONE THERE WEARING THE SAME THING?!
!!
FILE 66
MOUNTAIN CABIN PSYCHO
BAG CHECK

N-NO... EVERY-ONE IS DRESSED *DIFFER-ENTLY!*
THERE ARE MORE PICTURES...
MAYBE I CAN SEE HIS FACE IN ONE!
THEN KEEP CHECK-ING...
...BUT BE VERY CAREFUL. REMEMBER-- ONE OF THEM IS A KILLER WITH NOTHING TO LOSE.
OH...

OKAY, YOU THREE-- STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!
RIGHT!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
THESE SHOTS ARE TOO GRAINY...
ゴロ ゴロ
NOW
...LET'S SEE...
HERE'S ONE WITH THE FACE...!
WAIT!!

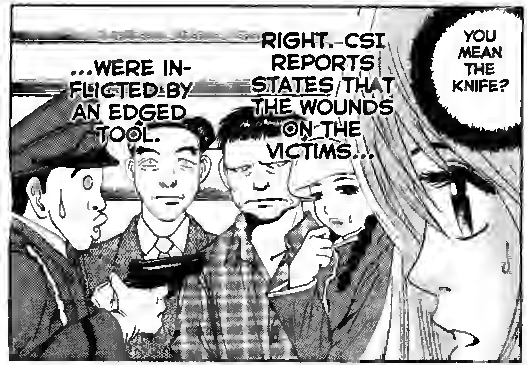
THE LIGHTS!
ピカ
オオオオ
ゴ
HEY! WATCH WHERE... AH! THE PHONE...!!
WHAT HAP-PENED?!
SMACK!
GYYAAAH!!

BUT WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
THE LIGHTNING KNOCKED OUT THE POWER!
KURUMI! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
!!
OH! THERE IT IS!
WHERE'S THE PHONE?!
POWER'S BACK ON! ♡
THE PHONE'S SCREEN IS BROKEN!!
J-PHONE

OH, MY! SHINGO-SAN!
HUH?
IT'S BROKEN?
SHINGO!!
UNHH...
WHAT HAPPENED?!
I... I TRIED TO GRAB THE PHONE.
...BUT SOME-ONE...
WHAT? SOME-ONE HIT YOU?!
.....

...I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CATCH THE NEXT PLANE FOR THAILAND-- JUST LIKE I ORIGINALLY PLANNED!
IF I CAN MANAGE TO SNEAK OUT...
HEH HEH... LOOKS LIKE MY LUCK HASN'T RUN OUT YET!
THAT WAS CLOSE...!
BUT THE CELL PHONE! IT'S BROKEN! NOW WE CAN'T SEE THE KILLER'S FACE!
YEAH...
KURUMI...
THIS WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.
THE KILLER MUST HAVE INTENTIONALLY STOMPED ON IT WHILE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT.
ARE YOU OKAY, HONEY?!
...DOES GIVE US AN IMPORTANT CLUE.
EVEN SO... THE PICTURE THAT THE VICTIM LEFT...
YEAH.
I THINK...

I'LL TELL YOU. BUT LET'S RECAP FIRST...
CLUE...? WHAT CLUE...?
THE KILLER HAD TO HAVE CHANGED HIS CLOTHES SOMEWHERE.


YOU MEAN THE KNIFE?
RIGHT. CSI REPORTS STATES THAT THE WOUNDS ON THE VICTIMS...
...WERE INFLICTED BY AN EDGED TOOL.

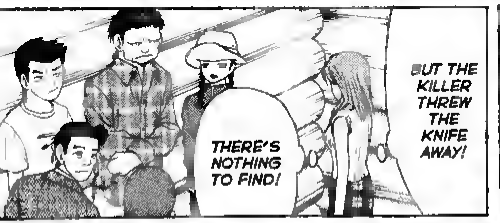
THEN THERE'S...
Murder Weapon
...THE MURDER WEAPON

THE PICTURES CONFIRM IT WAS A HUNTING KNIFE.
IT'S THE SAME...

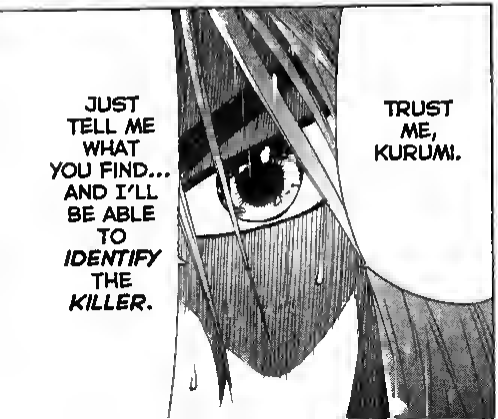
IT'S THE SAME KNIFE I--
?
THE SAME KNIFE YOU WHAT?
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, THE REASON WE GOT STRANDED UP HERE...
...IS BECAUSE SHINGO RAN OVER A BLOODY KNIFE ON THE ROAD.
!!

IF I HAD KNOWN THAT, I WOULD HAVE IDENTIFIED THE KILLER EASILY!
WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION THIS EARLIER?!
I... I'M SORRY!
...WHICH MUST MEAN HE'S...
OF COURSE!
THE KILLER SLIPPED BY THE POLICE THAT WERE SEARCHING IN THE AREA...
WHAT IS IT...?
INSPECTOR...?
?

SEARCH EVERY-ONE'S BAG!
O-OKAY...


THERE'S NOTHING TO FIND!
BUT THE KILLER THREW THE KNIFE AWAY!

SEARCH THEM THOROUGHLY...


JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU FIND... AND I'LL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE KILLER.
TRUST ME, KURUMI.

?.....
UH...
O-OKAY...!
EVERY-ONE--GIVE ME YOUR BAGS!
GOOD. NOW--DESCRIBE THE BAGS TO ME.
OKAY... WELL....
...THE FEMALE PHOTOGRAPHER, TAKASHIMA HAS--.
...A BACK-PACK.
AND OOA, THE RESEARCHER?
AN ATTACHÉ CASE...

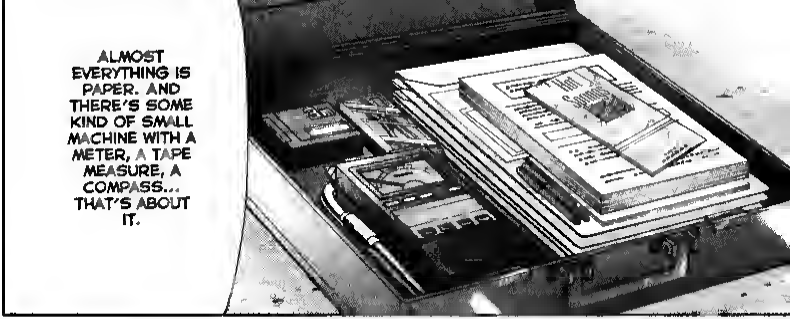
ICHIRO TANAKA?
UM...
...TANAKA.
...YOU DON'T HAVE A BAG OR ANYTHING?
HUH?
NOT EVEN A BACK-PACK?
NO. WHAT? IS THAT A CRIME?
WELL... IT JUST SEEMS ODD YOU WOULDN'T BE CARRYING A BAG IN THE WILDERNESS LIKE THIS...
...UP THERE!
!
BUT I ASSURE YOU, THERE'S NOTHING OF VALUE IN IT... AT LEAST NOTHING WORTH STEALING.
.....
FINE! MY BAG IS...
ドン

NOW... START THE SEARCH.
THE VERDICT'S STILL OUT ON THAT.
YEAH RIGHT AND I'M A LONG-NECK GOOSE!
ALL RIGHT, GUYS... I NEED TO SEE THE CONTENTS OF YOUR BAGS.
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT A MURDER SUSPECT IS AMONG US!

I JUST WANNA KNOW WHICH ONE OF YOU HIT ME!
IS THIS ABOUT THAT PICTURE ON THE CELL PHONE?!
NO WAY...!
WHAT?! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?!
THIS IS CRAZY! HOW CAN I BE A MURDER SUSPECT?! OF ALL THE NERVE...!
GO AHEAD. CHECK MY BAG. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE.
JUST CALM DOWN, EVERY-ONE!
NO ONE IS BEING ACCUSED JUST YET!
HIT ME, WILL YA?!
I'LL LEARN YA!

D-DON'T MOVE!
F-FINE! I WILL...
...A FIVE YEN COIN?
...AND...
A HAND-KER-CHIEF...
...SOME PILLS...
.....?
O-KAAY... TAKASHIMA? YOUR BAG?
SIGH... IF YOU MUST...
OH... THAT. IT'S JUST THE FEE TO CROSS THE RIVER STYX.
HEE HEE HEE...!

NOTHING SUSPICIOUS.
...AND A TELEPHOTO LENS.
...A CAMERA, SOME FILM...
A MAP...
...TWO TOWELS...
NOW THE LAST ONE... ODA.
I SEE...
MAY I, ODA?
What an outrage!
Unbelievable!
S-SURE THING...


ALMOST EVERYTHING IS PAPER. AND THERE'S SOME KIND OF SMALL MACHINE WITH A METER, A TAPE MEASURE, A COMPASS... THAT'S ABOUT IT.

THE ITEMS IN THEIR BAGS ALLOW ME TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THEM AS SUSPECTS.
YOU'LL SEE.
I'M CERTAIN MY REASONING IS CORRECT.

UH-HUH...
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO IDENTIFY THE KILLER WITHOUT A WEAPON?

USE YOUR HEAD, KURUMI. YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT. HERE...I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU THE CLUES...
WELL? WHICH ONE'S THE KILLER?
FIRST, THE KILLER WHO'S IN THE ROOM WITH YOU RIGHT NOW CHANGED HIS CLOTHES AFTER LEAVING THE CRIME SCENE.
MEANING...
...HE ATTACKED A SIXTH VICTIM AND TOOK HIS OR HER CLOTHES.
ALSO...
WHAT?! A SIXTH VICTIM...?!

...WHY WOULD A KILLER ON THE LAM THROW AWAY HIS *ONLY WEAPON?*
WHEN YOU FIGURE THAT OUT, YOU'LL KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS!
DON'T YOU GET IT?

file.66 END

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SIGH...
I KNOW THERE'S A BRAIN INSIDE THAT PRETTY LITTLE HEAD, KURUMI...SO USE IT!
BUT...
WHO IS IT?! TELL ME!
WHO'S THE KILLER?!
HMPH.
IT IS YOUR JOB TO *SOLVE* CRIMES, ISN'T IT? I JUST DO THE LEGWORK.
FILE 67
MOUNTAIN CABIN PSYCHO
SLEIGHT OF HAND
OKAY...
...YOU CAN DO THIS. I *KNOW* YOU *CAN*. YOU'RE IN A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION...AND I WON'T ALWAYS BE THERE TO HELP YOU. NOW *THINK!*
.....!!

OH... AND CHEW SOME GUMI
WHAT?
GUM?!

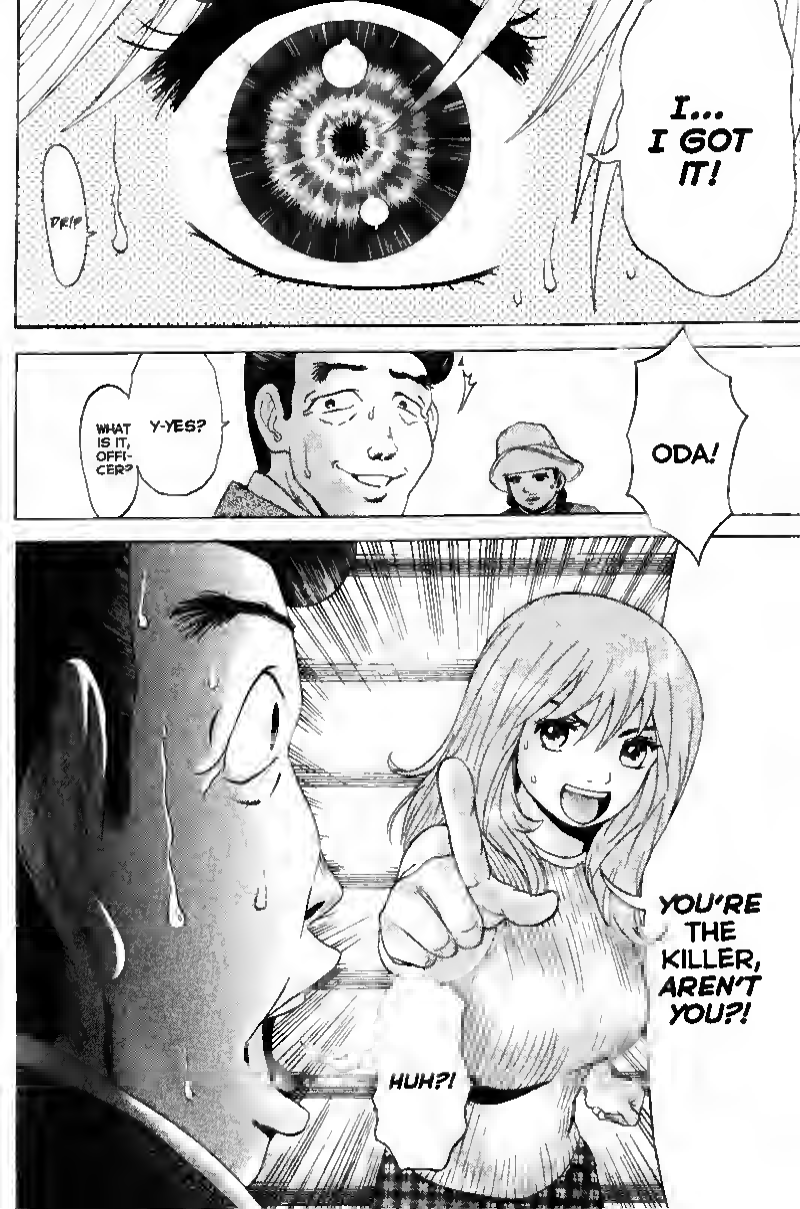
?
ASK HIM!
YOUR FIANCÉ MUST HAVE SOME.
B-BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY!
HONEY, DO YOU HAVE ANY GUM?
YEAH, SURE.
NOW CHEW IT.
Suddenly I'm getting a chill...
W-WHAT?! JUST WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?!
NEVER MIND. JUST CHEW. CHEW IT WELL.
YOUR LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT...
OKAY...BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WOULD...?
A MAN GOING ON A ROMANTIC DRIVE ALWAYS HAS GUM FOR HIS BREATH-- JUST IN CASE.

UM, OFFICER AYAKI...?
MY LIFE DEPENDS ON THIS GUM?!
I HESITATE TO SAY THIS, BUT...
HUH?
YES...?
...MY SHIFT IS OVER... AND I... WELL...
CAN I GO, NOW?
THE RAIN HAS STOPPED! I WANT OUT OF HERE, TOO!

HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
NO! WAIT!
SO QUIT WHINING, AMANO! YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME-- PERIOD!
YOU THINK I'M HAVING FUN HERE?! TODAY IS MY DAY OFF!
E-EXCUSE ME, THEN...
EVERYONE IS STAYING RIGHT HERE! NO ONE LEAVES!
OH...YES, MA'AM! EVERYONE--PLEASE BE PATIENT FOR A LITTLE LONGER!
D'OH!
AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!

HEH...
WHY DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN ON MY DAY OFF?!
WAS THAT A *LAUGH*?! WHAT'S SO *FUNNY*, HUH?!
!
...I'M GOING TO TELL YOU WHO THE KILLER IS...
...BUT DO NOT LOOK AT HIS FACE. UNDERSTAND? YOU MUSTN'T TIP HIM OFF!
WELL, IT'S DEFINITELY LOST ITS FLAVOR. WHY?
NOTHING. WHAT'S THE GUM'S STATUS?
IT'S ABOUT TIME, THEN. LISTEN UP...

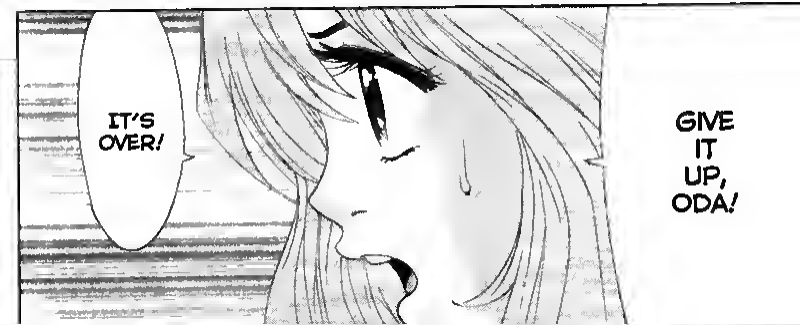
JUST PLAY IT COOL AND SAY, "I GOT IT."
UNDER-STAND?
Y-YES, SIR...
THE KILLER IS...
!!


I... I GOT IT!
DRIP
ODA!
Y-YES?
WHAT IS IT, OFFICER?
YOU'RE THE KILLER, AREN'T YOU?!
HUH?!

OFFICER AMANO! HOLD HIM DOWN!
QUICK!
OH! Y-YES!
R-RIGHT AWAY!
SO HE'S THE ONE THAT SOCKED ME!
S-STAY STILL, YOU!
H-HEY!! W-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?! I OION'T KILL ANYONE! I'M A GEOLOGIST, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUO!!
TANAKA-- COME HELP US HOLD HIM!
ALL RIGHT...

HEY! LET ME GO!
RIGHT!
...WHILE I SEARCH HIM!
OFFICER AMANO, HOLD HIM FROM BEHIND .

W-WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!* I'M NOT A *KILLER!!*


IT'S OVER!
GIVE IT UP, ODA!

OFFICER, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?!
LET'S SEE... CHECK HIS POCKETS FOR ME! HE MIGHT BE HIDING A WEAPON...
B-BUT...
NO! THIS IS A MISTAKE!! YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN!!
HOLD HIM TIGHT, AMANO!
GOT 'IM!
YES, MA'AM!
SNAP
!

YEAH, DID YOU, KURUMI?!
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?!
W-WHAT NOW?!
MY MISTAKE.
SORRY.
WHAT?!
HEH HEH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU MADE ME LOOK LIKE A KILLER!
...BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY OFFICIAL I.D. WITH YOU, SO...
WELL, YOU SAID YOU'RE A GEOLOGICAL RESEARCHER...
THAT'S ALL YOU HAD?! THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!!

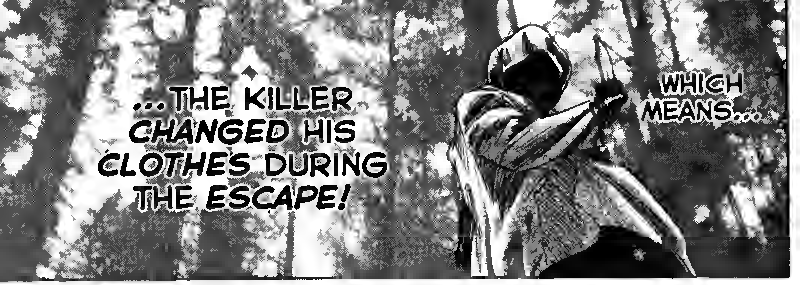
IT WAS A NECES-SARY *RUSE*.
RELAX.
すくっ

IT'S NOT ODA...

...THOUGH I HAD A GOOD REASON TO ACCUSE HIM.

YOU SEE, I *KNOW* WHO THE *REAL KILLER* IS.

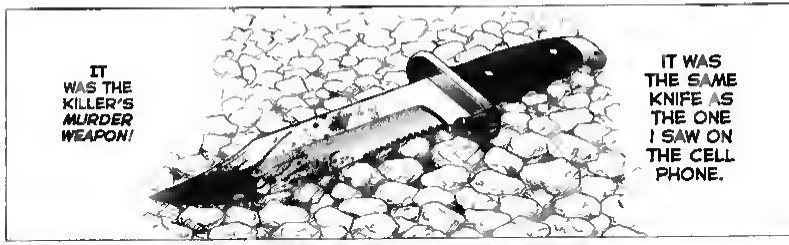
...STALL THEM AS LONG AS YOU CAN.
KURUMI, BACKUP IS ALMOST THERE. UNTIL THEY ARRIVE...
ザーザー
WILL DO.
BUT NO ONE HERE IS WEARING THE SAME COLOR.
REMEMBER WHAT THE KILLER WAS WEARING IN THE PICTURE ON THE CELL PHONE?
THE COLOR OF HIS SHIRT COULD BE SEEN UNDER THE RAINCOAT'S SLEEVE.


...THE KILLER CHANGED HIS CLOTHES DURING THE ESCAPE!
WHICH MEANS...

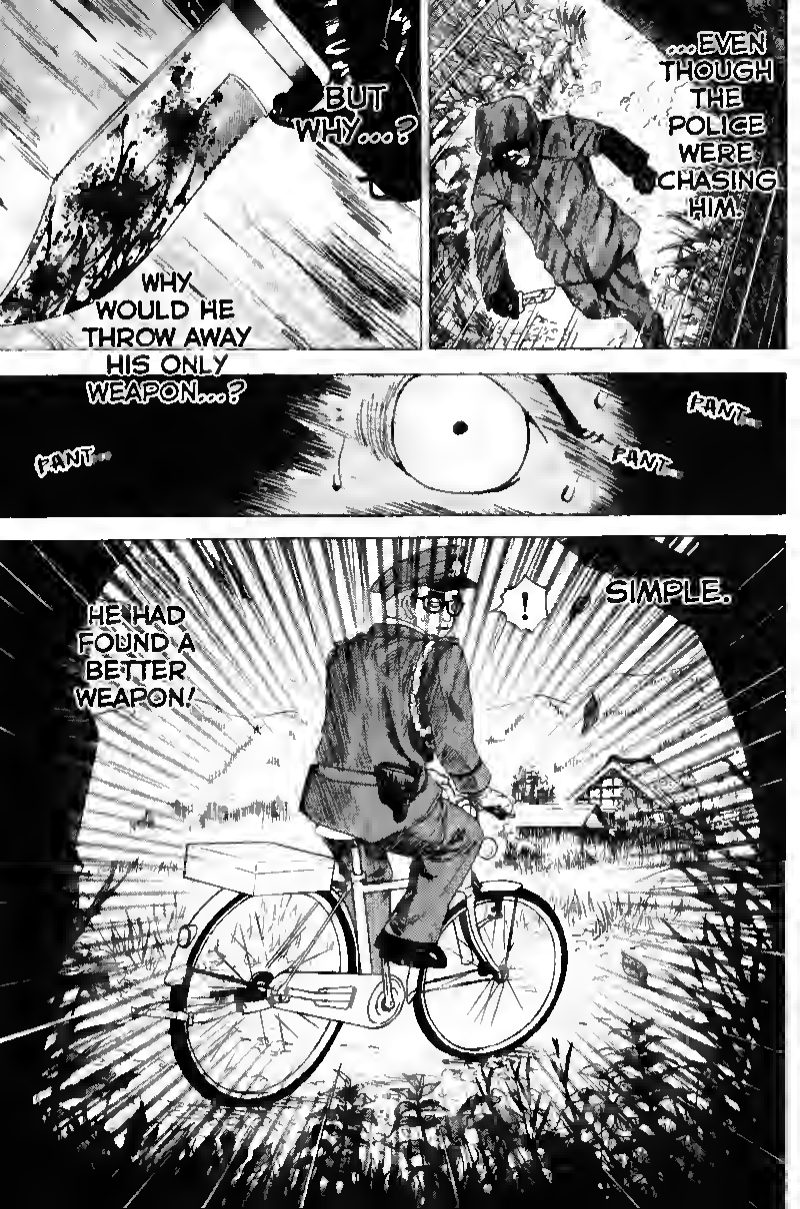
YEAH... SURE...! HIS CLOTHES MUST HAVE BEEN DRENCHED IN BLOOD!
CHANGED HIS CLOTHES?!
WHAT?!

BECAUSE HE NEEDED TO EVADE THE POLICE!
NO... KEEPING BLOOD OFF OF HIS CLOTHES WAS THE REASON HE WAS WEARING A RAINCOAT.
OUR BOY CHANGED CLOTHES FOR ANOTHER REASON...
CAN YOU GUESS WHY?

...I FOUND A KNIFE ON THE ROAD. THE KNIFE WAS COVERED WITH BLOOD.
RIGHT BEFORE I CAME HERE...
BUT HOW ...?
WHAT?!
ざわ.
ざわ.


IT WAS THE KILLER'S *MURDER WEAPON!*
IT WAS THE SAME KNIFE AS THE ONE I SAW ON THE CELL PHONE.

YEP.
THE KILLER THREW THE KNIFE AWAY...
THAT KNIFE WAS USED TO KILL... *PEOPLE?!*


BUT WHY...?
WHY WOULD HE THROW AWAY HIS ONLY WEAPON...?
...EVEN THOUGH THE POLICE WERE CHASING HIM.
PANT...
PANT...
PANT...
HE HAD FOUND A BETTER WEAPON!
SIMPLE.

A GUN CERTAINLY TRUMPS A KNIFE...
...WOULDN'T YOU SAY, "OFFICER" AMANO?!
SNAP
file.67 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
Manga-Sketchbook not so proudly presents
Remote
Where ugly art and pointless fanservice combine!

http://www.manga-sketchbook.org
#Manga Sketchbook@IrcHighway

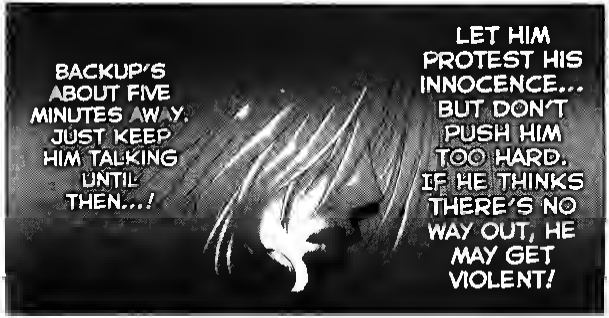
YOU KILLED A POLICE OFFICER AND TOOK HIS UNIFORM AND GUN, DIDN'T YOU?!
THAT'S WHY YOU THREW THE KNIFE AWAY!!
THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN STABBING INNOCENT PEOPLE IS BLOWING THEIR HEADS OFF, HUH?!
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU'D GET AWAY WITH IT, YOU SICK, PSYCHOTIC BASTARD?!
FILE 68
MOUNTAIN CABIN PSYCHO MIRACLES

W-WAIT, OFFICER AYAKI! P-PLEASE! I'M NOT THE KILLER!!
HONEST!!
YOU'RE SERI-OUS?! THE COP IS THE KILLER?!
BUT HE'S NOT A COP! YOU HEARD HER!
JUST ADMIT IT, AMANO-- OR WHATEVER YOUR REAL NAME IS!
NO MORE GAMES! IT'S OVER!

OFFICER AYAKI... I DIDN'T DO IT! I SWEAR!!
P-PLEASE!
W-WAIT!
HUH ...
WHEN I TOLD YOU MY PLAN TO CALL THE CELL PHONE...
FORGET IT, PAL! YOU'RE NOT THAT GOOD OF AN ACTOR!
OH!
...YOU'D BE THE FIRST ONE TO LOOK SUSPICIOUS, SINCE ONLY YOU KNEW ABOUT OUR PLAN.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD THE CHANCE TO PUT THE CELL PHONE IN HER BAG... WHILE YOU WERE PRETENDING TO TAKE STATEMENTS FROM THEM!
PLANTING THE PHONE GAVE YOU THE PERFECT ALIBI!
...YOU WERE PURPOSELY LOUD SO THEY COULD HEAR YOU!
INGENIOUS! IF HE STILL HAS IT, THAT'LL SHOW US WHO THE KILLER IS!
CALL THE CELL PHONE THAT THE KILLER STOLE HUH?!
BECAUSE IF YOU HADN'T BLURTED IT OUT, AND IF WE'D ELIMINATED TAKASHIMA AS A SUSPECT...

N-
NOT
TRUE...

...


BACKUP'S ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AWAY. JUST KEEP HIM TALKING UNTIL THEN...!
LET HIM PROTEST HIS INNOCENCE... BUT DON'T PUSH HIM TOO HARD. IF HE THINKS THERE'S NO WAY OUT, HE MAY GET VIOLENT!

GOOD JOB, KURUMI.

J-JUST LOOK AT THAT T-TINY GUN...!
IT'S A *TOY*, ISN'T IT?! *ISN'T IT?!*
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY COP I'VE EVER SEEN! WHAT, WITH THE *SHORT SKIRT* AND *BIG TITS*...
WHA--?!
I THINK *YOU* ARE THE *FAKE COP!*

Y-YOU KNOW WHAT?!
!

I BET YOU'RE THE KILLER!!
I'VE GOT IT!!
YOUR CREDEN-TIALS!
..THEN LET'S SEE.
KURUMI, WAIT! DON'T PUSH SO HARD! IT'S TOO SOON!
わぁ～
WHAT?!
POLICE
FLIP
IF YOU STILL SAY YOU'RE A REAL COP...
NICE TRY, BUT YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE! I'VE GOT MY BADGE RIGHT HERE!

OH BOY ...
CLICK
YOU WANNA SEE...MY CREDENTIALS?
TAKE A GOOD, LONG LOOK, BITCH!!

YOU COULD SET HIM OFF!!
YOU...

DROP HIM, DAMMIT!! FIRE YOUR WEAPON!!
DO IT NOW, KURUMI!!

B-BUT I...
...I'VE N-NEVER...
HE'S GOING TO KILL YOU!! SHOOT!!

AH!

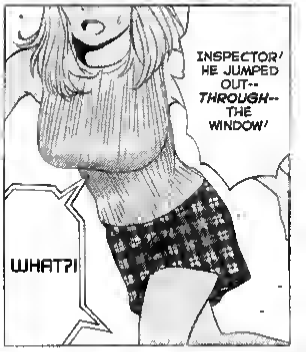
カチャ・
STUPID WHORE. ♡
NO!! MY GUN...!!
KURUMI!! WHAT'S GOING ON?! ANSWER ME!!

KURUMI!!
!
ばっ
AGH!!
……
SHINGO!!
NO!!

HEY!!
WHO THE F...WHO PUT GUM...?!
!!?
WHAT THE...?!
...I SNUCK BEHIND YOU! ♡
WHEN YOU WERE HOLDING ODA...
I DID!
ば、!!
Y-YOU...YOU WHORE! YOU DIRTY, DIRTY WHORE! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...YOU WHORE!!

HUFF!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!!
GOOD! LET HIM! THAT MEANS WE'RE SAFE!

KURUM!
DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF HIM!


INSPECTOR! HE JUMPED OUT-- THROUGH-- THE WINDOW!
WHAT?!

...WERE YOU REALLY GOING TO DIE FOR YOUR GIRL?
HEY, DUDE...

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はぁ

I JUST DID IT...
I-I DON'T KNOW... I REALLY D-DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT...
...WITH HER GUN!!
...IS COMING BACK...
.....
THE KILLER...
OH NO...!!

SORRY... BUT I CAN'T LET ANY OF YOU PIGS LIVE!!
TANA-KA!! I'VE GOT YOU!!
DAMN.
I WAS AIMING FOR THE WHORE. OH, WELL... ONE DOWN-- FOUR TO GO!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WHUNH!!

WHAT...?!

BOB!!
Y'KNOW, KURUMI... THE SOONER YOU *STOP* TAKING *VACATIONS*...
...THE *SAFER* IT'LL BE FOR *ALL* OF *US*.
♡

I'M ALWAYS SAFE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE MY BACK, BOB...
CASE CLOSED, KOU.
GOOD WORK, BOB.

HEY!
WE'VE GOT A MAN DOWN, HERE!
CALL AN AMBU-LANCE!
TANAKA-SAN!
WHY DID YOU TRY TO SAVE ME...?
WHAT CAN I SAY? I WAS INSPIRED...
...BY YOUR BOY-FRIEND
ME?

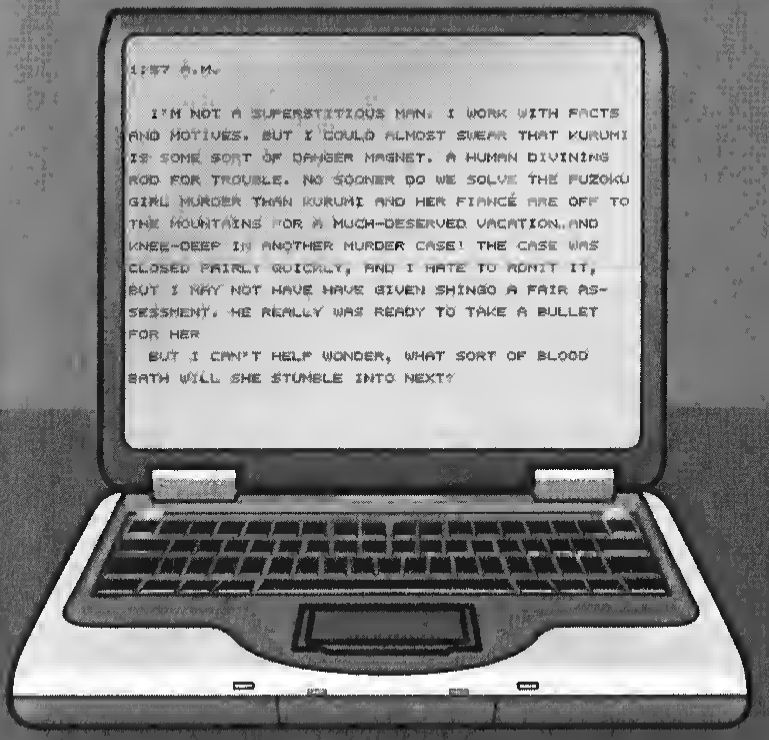
I'M DROWNING IN DEBT... SO MUCH SO THAT I CAME HERE TO STOP *HOLDING MY BREATH.* GOOD OL' FASHIONED *SUICIDE*, Y'SEE...
I THOUGHT MAYBE... IF MY LAST ACT WAS A GOOD ONE... IT'D MAKE UP FOR ALL THE MISTAKES I'VE MADE...
TANAKA...
THE FEE FOR CROSSING THE RIVER STYX...
...IS SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU *AFTER* YOU DIE. BUT INSTEAD, IT HELPED ME TO *LIVE*.
HOLY--!! THAT COIN STOPPED THE BULLET!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
HE ONLY HAS A BROKEN RIB...
パーン

LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE, DO THEY?
すっ…
TANAKA-SAN...
...YOU SHOULD KEEP THIS. CONSIDER IT A REMINDER THAT LIFE...YOUR LIFE...HAS VALUE.
WHAT ...?
I MEAN, LET'S FACE IT...

THIS COIN IS A SIGN THAT YOUR LIFE IS GOING TO TURN AROUND!
YEAH... I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!
HEY... YOU EVER BREAK UP WITH THE RUNT...
...YOU GIVE ME A CALL!

fil..68 END

FROM THE JOURNALS OF Kozaburo Himuro:


1:57 A.M.
I'M NOT A SUPERSTITIOUS MAN. I WORK WITH FACTS AND MOTIVES. BUT I COULD ALMOST SWEAR THAT KURUMI IS SOME SORT OF DANGER MAGNET. A HUMAN DIVINING ROD FOR TROUBLE. NO SOONER DO WE SOLVE THE FUZOKU GIRL MURDER THAN KURUMI AND HER FIANCÉ ARE OFF TO THE MOUNTAINS FOR A MUCH-DESERVED VACATION...AND KNEE-DEEP IN ANOTHER MURDER CASE! THE CASE WAS CLOSED FAIRLY QUICKLY, AND I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I MAY NOT HAVE HAVE GIVEN SHINGO A FAIR ASSESSMENT. HE REALLY WAS READY TO TAKE A BULLET FOR HER
BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDER, WHAT SORT OF BLOOD BATH WILL SHE STUMBLE INTO NEXT?

HIMURO AND AYAKI
ARE BACK ON THE CASE IN...

.remote.

VOLUME 8